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Algeria 1.25
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Austria S 25
Belgium BF 60
Brazil R 1.00
Canada C 1.00
Czechia CZ 1.00
Denmark DK 1.00
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France FF 10
Germany DM 3.50
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Hong Kong HK 2.50
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India IN 50
Indonesia ID 2.00
Italy L 2.00
Japan Y 1.25
Korea KR 1.00
Kuwait KD 2.00
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Latvia LV 2.00
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Luxembourg LF 2.00
Malaysia M 2.00
Malta ML 2.00
Mauritius MU 2.00
Mexico MX 2.00
Morocco M 2.00
Netherlands G 4.00
Norway NK 15
Oman OR 1.00
Pakistan P 1.00
Paraguay PY 2.00
Peru PE 2.00
Poland Z 2.00
Portugal P 2.00
Qatar QR 2.00
Romania R 2.00
Russia R 2.00
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46,584

Matthew Engel on an institution under siege

Betrayal of the World Service

G2 with European weather

The pragmatism of New Labour

Eric Hobsbawm why intellectuals dislike Tony Blair

This section, page 9

OnLine

The arrival of the Internet

Labour accuses PM of climbdown □ Culling plan 'devastates' farmers

Major about-face on beef

John Palmer in Brussels
Stephen Balkis in Strasbourg
and Michael White

THE Government was last night struggling desperately to prevent its planned climb-down over terms for settling the EU beef war from turning into a humiliating rout at the Florence summit tomorrow. The National Farmers' Union said its members would be devastated by the Government's agreement to cull an extra 67,000 cattle, while the Opposition claimed John Major had merely been humiliated. In a statement issued last night the farmers' union said: "Today's proposal by the European Commission that further cattle must be culled as part of the UK's BSE eradication plan will come as devastating news to many farmers. The NFU believes it would be unacceptable for British farmers to be obliged to sacrifice their herds, especially in the absence of guaranteed progress towards a complete lifting of the ban." The shadow Foreign Secretary Robin Cook directed his attack on the Prime Minister: "This embarrassing climb-down for John Major has exposed how weak he is in Europe. Their strategy has not demonstrated strength by the Government but revealed their isolation. This is not a victory for John Major, but a humiliation." Liberal Democrat European affairs spokesman Charles Kennedy said: "We may have made no progress but done immense political damage to Britain and the rest of Europe in the process." The European Commission yesterday published a five-step framework agreement for gradually lifting the EU ban on British beef which falls well short of the Government's original demands for a clear-cut staged lifting of the ban. Instead, each step taken in lifting the ban will depend on the Government taking a series of health and safety measures and other steps to get rid of BSE, as well as on verified evidence that the disease is being brought under control. Given these hurdles, some fear it could be three to five years before the final stages of the ban are removed, a suggestion dismissed by the Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind as "ludicrous." Ministers were also embarrassed by the Commission's public reference to the "considerable misgivings" of governments and scientific experts throughout the EU at the way the UK authorities had tackled the BSE crisis. The plans came with a new warning from Jacques Santer, the European Commission president, that Britain must drop its non-cooperation policy if the new framework was to be adopted in Florence tomorrow. He told the European Parliament: "It is for the UK authorities to take the necessary steps to eradicate BSE. This has been the consistent position of the Commission since the crisis began on March 21 and it will not budge. It will be deaf to political pressure and attempts to block union legislation, such as the veto. It would be a very grave mistake to politicise this crisis. You cannot play with public health." The Prime Minister expressed cautious optimism over the Commission's proposals. "I don't know if we will be able to resolve this dispute at Florence, but we are now getting back to a more rational discussion and common sense suggests that rational discussion will draw us towards a practical solution," he said. The Commission plan makes it clear that Britain will not be free to sell its beef to countries outside the EU before the lifting of the ban is complete. Amid the confusion, the Government's chief veterinary officer, Keith Meldrum, appeared to concede that an extra 67,000 cattle born in 1989-90 could be killed to satisfy continuing European concerns that Britain has not done enough to eradicate BSE from its herds. The Government later admitted that such a cull would turn to page 2, column 8



Facing up to Europe

Table with 2 columns: Facing up to Europe, Faced down by Europe. Rows include: Major's demands, Europe's response, Culling of 62,000 cattle, Culling of 147,000 cattle, Non-cooperation with EU, Non-cooperation policy, Culling of 67,000 cattle, Workforce has only to be lifted when EU ban is totally lifted.

'We cannot continue business as usual within Europe when we are faced with this clear disregard by some of our partners of reason, common-sense and Britain's national interests.' - John Major in the Commons, May 21

'The Commission will be deaf to political pressure and attempts to block union legislation. It would be a very grave mistake to politicise this crisis. You cannot play with public health.' - Jacques Santer, European Commission president, yesterday



British retreat, page 5
Leader comment, page 8

Michael White
Political Editor

Reluctant warrior hails deal as a sort of victory

Ministers and whips will sell the deal as a victory, although not too hard for fear of pushing their luck. European colleagues still wince at the "game, set and match" claims made on Mr Major's behalf (actually the words were not his, but his press secretary's) after the Maastricht compromise in 1991. Many Germans especially, will not want to see such behaviour rewarded, even though as Labour was quick to point out - Britain's tactics have won neither a timetable for ending the ban, nor the automatic step-by-step lifting of it for which Tory MPs hoped. Those Euro-vets and four other EU committees will hold vetoes of their own for years, while no one expects German consumers to glimpse British beef again this century, whatever the Commission says. Ministers will keep their fingers crossed. The first bit of luck Mr Major needs is that the Tory tabloids do not deploy "Major in beef climb-down" headlines.

England team's performance likely to raise the score in boardrooms and bedrooms

John Mullan
ENGLAND awoke yesterday in a state of joyous disbelief. Few could have predicted the result against the Netherlands. Nobody could have guessed its impact on England's citizens, even those with little time for the game. Fiasco had threatened. There was the infamous Cathy Pacific display on return from the ill-judged Far East tour, dismay as the team crumbled against Switzerland, and, as recently as half-

time on Saturday, the knives were being sharpened to be plunged into Terry Venables. All changed, changed utterly. Yesterday, along with a team earlier dismissed as unfit boozers, the English coach, trying to quell over-arching optimism which suggests the trophy is as good as won, was deflated. Chris Evans kicked off his breakfast show on Radio 1 replaying the commentary. He treated listeners to the arguments of the Daily Mail's Jeff Powell. The previous morning on the Today programme, he had suggested Paul Gascoigne should be left out for the Dutch clash. Never had England gone to work before all happily humming a chart-topper. Nobody cared to shake the refrain of the Lightning Seeds from their heads: "It's coming home. It's coming home. Football's coming home." Hangovers had never felt quite so good. Psychologists were rousing up to explain why a 4-1 victory should have the English feeling as they must have done when Europe was liberated.

From the boardroom to the bedroom, folk are likely to be performing better. Good news for soccer widows then, themselves becoming turned on to Euro 96. Psychologists suggest the economy could also receive a boost. Ben Williams said: "People make a stronger commitment if they have high self-esteem. If we are associated with our team and it does well, then we'll feel a higher level of self-esteem which can enter into everything. Our performance will be better. We'll work better, socialise better, even ceivably make love better, because we feel good about ourselves." Cary Cooper, a motivation expert from the Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology, pointed to the changing nature of work and society, and how it led to insecurity. The win provided a fillip amidst the hurly-burly of change. The reason for all this: natural opiates, released in the pleasure centres of the brain, induce a high. But Roy Bailey, a psychologist from the International Management Centre in Birmingham, cautioned: "It doesn't last long." And what about poor Scotland? Would the cruel nature of their latest last-gasp demise result in more will-beatings, assaults in the workplace, and vandalised towns? Not so, the Scots, it seems, are too well versed in the grinding inevitability of glorious failure to let a football match dent their sense of national identity.

Leader comment, page 8
Sport, pages 14-16; Women, G2 page 5

Leader comment, page 8
Sport, pages 14-16; Women, G2 page 5

Inside
3

Britain
Police hunting the Manchester bombers issued descriptions of two hooded men who drove the bomb to the city centre, and the courier.
3

World News
President Clinton's closest political adviser was named as an 'unindicted co-conspirator' in a criminal trial in Little Rock.
6

Finance
May's cold weather put the brakes on high-street spending as shoppers shunned new summer lines offered by clothing and footwear stores.
11

Sport
Portugal beat Croatia 3-0 to top their Euro 96 group and put both into the quarter-finals. Denmark beat Turkey but both go out.
12

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2 NEWS

Sketch

House echoes to a hollow victory



Simon Hoggart

FEEL sorry for Jack Straw. The last time he went mano a mano in the Commons with Michael Howard he was trounced, humiliated and silenced. Yesterday he won. Sadly, there was almost no one there to watch him — and half a dozen Tory backbenchers and only a few more on the Labour side.

He must have felt like a Dutch football fan taking consolation in the fact that the Under-21 team had beaten England Under-21s — that is to say, not consoling at all. The debate was ostensibly about sentencing policy. In fact, it was about almost everything except sentencing policy. A Labour MP talked about the "astronomical levels" of vehicle crime and implied that, if the figures were coming down, it was because people didn't even bother to report it.

predecessors assailed Judge Jeffries for his soft sentencing, this was an historic example of chutzpah. It was like the wolf saying how warmly he agreed with Little Red Riding Hood on the subject of grandmatricide.

Next Mr Howard went for Jack Straw, reasonably enough, on the topic of curfews. He pointed out that Mr Straw's surprising policy, supposedly meant to drive loutish teenagers off the streets, had in the course of 24 hours turned into a device to protect under-10s for their own safety.

"This was in the Guardian, so it must be right!" he shouted. (Being sarcastic about the Guardian is a stock-in-trade of the more old-fashioned Tories. It's like those jokes about British Rail sandwiches, which continue years after the sandwiches have become rather good.)

Mr Straw, in turn, ignored this attack. He began by saying that the Home Secretary's speech was one of the most "puerile and pathetic". This was a feeble start, but things rapidly improved. There were some 50,000 criminal offences in this country every day, he said. Crime had destroyed communities and forced people to change their whole way of life. The Government's record was the worst of any Western government.

(Actually, the United States still has a much worse crime rate than us, which presumably is why Mr Howard seeks guidance there so often. Perhaps he should learn from the Mayor of Washington DC, and put the police service under the control of a crooked, adulterous drug-abuser.)

Mr Straw mocked the contrast between the Home Secretary's rhetoric and the more problematic reality. He had produced a ringing slogan for the Tory conference. These days it had been rewritten: "If you don't want the crime, don't do the crime — except in certain exceptional cases where the courts are able to waive mandatory sentences..."

Throughout it all, Mr Howard sat silent, a piece of Home Office stationery on his lap, entirely unmarked. But it did not mean that he was not listening. Like Bishop Berkeley's falling tree, since nobody had seen it, could Mr Straw's victory be said to have actually happened?

Review

Mercifully short, but not so sweet

Edward Greenfield

Il Corsaro

Covent Garden

IT was bold of Covent Garden to promise performances of all Verdi's operas — nearly 50 of them — before January 2001, the centenary of his death. — foolhardy even, at a time of ever more stringent funding.

Not surprisingly, concert performances are being called in aid, so that instead of the stage production much needed, we had Il Corsaro, the second of Verdi's Byron-inspired operas, given half-measure treatment with singers sitting in rows in evening dress.

Written in 1848, only three years before Rigoletto, the first of the supreme masterpieces, Il Corsaro has the great merit — particularly from a modern point of view — of extreme concision. Verdi's original librettist compressed Byron's melodrama about a bold pirate with a ruthlessness worthy of a tabloid sub-editor today, so that a complicated story is rattled through in barely 90 minutes.

So far so good, particularly for a concert performance, when on the whole it is just as satisfying to imagine the hero throwing himself off a cliff as to see it represented, particularly when you have a Verdian conductor as understanding as Evelino Pido in the pit. The commercial recording of the work has given the lie to the old idea that this is a feeble piece, but the contrast with this Covent Garden presentation demonstrated how much was then owed to starry cast-

ing. Stylistically, Il Corsaro, planned some years before it was completed, is largely a throwback to early Verdi. So it is that the big jealousy aria for the wicked Pasha, said, might have been written to convey almost any emotion you could think of, ending with a vigorous cabaret that is no more than Verdian rum-tum-tum.

What such an aria needs is fine singing, and that on this occasion it failed to get, with the Italian baritone, Roberto Servile, sneering away in what should be smooth legato lines.

What the recording brought out, too, is the fascinating contrast between the two heroines — the faithful Medora (sung on the recording by Jessye Norman) and the Pasha's seductive slave, Gulnara (sung by Montserrat Caballe). Here the Ukrainian soprano, Viktoria Loukianets, as Medora floated beautiful pianissimos from time to time, but for this role one needs a far sweeter, less edgy voice.

The Italian soprano Maria Dragoni, as Gulnara, sang with passion, but the best one can say is that her singing was like a Callas imitation without the imagination and with plenty of the vocal faults. Ironically, the one fully satisfying performance, strong and tonally beautiful, came from the Argentinian tenor, José Cura, in the title role, who had a throat can do when ill, one looks forward to hearing him much more in any Italian repertory he cares to choose.

(A second performance will be relayed live tomorrow night on BBC Radio 3)

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Cheshire care worker 'sexually abused boys'

Whek Chaudhary

A FORMER care worker at a Cheshire children's home used young boys staying there to indulge in his perverted sexual fantasies, a jury at Chester crown court was told yesterday. The care worker, aged 46, who cannot be named for legal reasons, preyed on vul-

nerable boys sent to the home from across the North-west of England, Mervyn Hughes, prosecuting, told the court.

The defendant denies seven charges of indecent assault and two charges of buggery. Mr Hughes told the court that the care worker carried out a number of sexual acts on young boys, from touching their private parts to masturbation, oral sex and buggery.



Traders on the London Metal Exchange, and above right, the exchange's logo



Criticisms levelled at the LME:

- No outside regulator — LME is self regulating and market is "cosy"
- Many financial products traded not within scope of LME regulators
- Much trading on behalf of firms which are not LME members
- Metal prices subject to mercy of speculators
- Located in Britain where little metal is produced or shipped
- Does not track unduly large deals like stock exchange
- Deals do not need to be backed by adequate funds

Metal rigging clampdown

Inquiry launched after £1.6bn loss

Patrick Donovan City Editor

THE Securities and Investment Board launched a full-scale investigation into the multi-billion pound City metal markets yesterday as part of its inquiry into evidence that there has been a worldwide attempt to rig trading in copper.

The move is an attempt to restore confidence in the running of the London Metal Exchange (LME) which has been badly dented by last week's announcement that the Japanese trading giant, Sumitomo, has made huge losses from fraudulent dealing activity carried out by "rogue trader" Yasuo Hamanaka.

Early indications suggest that the value of unauthorised trades carried out by Mr Hamanaka could total as much as \$20 billion (£13 billion) and may involve other international companies.

The announcement has triggered an international investigation by Britain's Serious Fraud Office and financial regulatory authorities. The LME is the world's biggest metal market and many of the suspect trades were carried out through its dealing floor. More than \$2,500 billion (£1,625 billion) worth of metal trading deals pass through the market every year.

Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investment Board, said he was announcing the review in response to the discovery of the Sumitomo losses which are estimated to amount to more than \$3.5 billion (£1.6 billion). The review, which is unprecedented in the history of City trading, will include every aspect of metals dealing. It will also look at the way international regulators cooperate to oversee the

global commodity markets. The report is due to be published within six months.

Traders said the publicity surrounding the LME has caused "huge embarrassment to the market authorities".

One of the LME's leading traders added: "This market is still very much the old school City club and hates any kind of publicity. But it seems that a radical shake-up is inevitable."

As part of its investigation, Sir Andrew confirmed that the SIB would investigate the involvement of all British brokers engaged in trading with Mr Hamanaka. The inquiry will include Winchester Commodities, the trading company, which is known to have had business links with the Japanese company.

Other inquiries being pursued by investigators include the US company Global Minerals and Metals and a network of Guernsey-based commodity trading businesses which were last month raided by local police.

In a separate statement, David King, LME chief executive, welcomed the SIB inquiry and said it had been liaising with the board over allegations of copper fraud since the end of last year.

He defended the exchange against allegations, first reported in the Guardian, that the LME had failed to react effectively to evidence passed to it by a US trader in 1991 that Mr Hamanaka was engaged in irregular trading.

Mr King said he raised the matter with the SIB and attended a meeting at its offices with Mr Hamanaka, other Sumitomo representatives and regulators. "Subsequently... the director of Sumitomo publicly declared that the tax authorities were satisfied with the circumstances."

Notepad, page 11



Newcastle scrap dealer 'Freddie Senior' with the copper stockpile he is unable to sell

PHOTOGRAPH: RAOUL OLSON

The victim

Weighing up the cost of traders' distorted prices

THE real victims of the global copper crisis are men like William Shephard, a 57-year-old Newcastle-based scrap dealer who has been in the business for nearly 40 years, writes Patrick Donovan. Last year, "Freddie

Senior", as he is known in the business, was buying copper for £141 per hundredweight. Yesterday, it would have fetched 264 — with a drop of 30 per cent in the last month.

Freddie Senior blames this on international speculation by financial institutions. The result is that he is unable to sell his stock because he would lose so much money in the process. Local businesses, meanwhile, are unable to get the supplies they need for making everything from cables to electronic circuits. It is a grim cycle which

bodes badly for the scrap metal business Freddie Senior has spent a lifetime building up to employ 60 people and turn over £5 million a year. He is understandably bitter. As a man who earns his living handling ingots of metal, he can not understand the mentality of screen-based traders who distort the prices from trading screens as far afield as Tokyo. He warns that he is just one of hundreds of small metal dealers unable to deal in copper until the price has stabilised. Earlier this week, some-

body offered to sell him a ton of the metal and he was unable to calculate a price. The result is that big business is increasingly turning to stocks held by the London Metal Exchange (LME) itself. Such has been the demand that inventories are getting ominously low. Two years ago LME stocks were 610,000 tons. Over the last few days they have fallen 17,000 tons to 287,000. And they are still falling. "It's like a heart attack," says Freddie Senior, who keeps a daily chart of the copper price pencilled on the back of his office safe.

Urban anglers find nothing to carp about

Fishing elbow to elbow at five tanks beside a busy train station

Kevin Sullivan in Tokyo

FISHING at the Ichigaya Fish Centre isn't much different from dropping a line into the lobster tank at Safeway — not much of a sporting challenge. Twenty tons of carp are stocked in five concrete tanks, tucked between a busy commuter train station and a traffic-choked street in the centre of Tokyo. Every day hundreds of fishermen pay \$4.30 to rent a rod, sit elbow to elbow on milk crates and drop a line into silty green water. Many fishermen might say this is like hunting bunnies in a cage. But for the anglers of Ichigaya, their version of

urban fishing is relaxing, challenging and uniquely suited to jam-packed, concrete-crowded Tokyo. "What other choice do we have?" asked Jun Kobayashi, aged 25, who was wearing a business suit and shiny leather dress shoes as he sat on a crate one Saturday morning, dragged on a cigarette and waited for a carp to bite on the little ball of fish meal on his hook. "This is better than nothing."

With 30 million people crammed into Tokyo, everything is built small. Cars have retractable side mirrors to fit into narrow alleys; golfers practise on tiny netted-in rooftop driving ranges; and people pitch tents on a

crowded site near the end of the runway at Haneda airport, barbecuing to the scream of jet engines.

So a concrete fishing hole with fishermen lined up like so many birds on a wire makes sense, in a Tokyo sort of way.

Hiroshi Koga, aged 53, came to Ichigaya dressed for serious fishing in an L.L. Bean fishing jacket with lots of Velcro and zipped pockets, and a camouflage cap attached with a small cord. Next to his folding fishing stool, he kept his tackle box, cigarettes, an empty coffee flask and a big bag of chemical-green fishmeal bait.

As the teacher and writer dipped his rod into the 5ft-deep tank, the screech of brakes behind him signalled the arrival of another commuter train into Ichigaya station. Up the concrete bank

in front of him, traffic churned noisily as the traffic lights turned green. A dead carp floated belly up near the end of his rod.

"I have loved fishing since I was a child," Mr Koga said. "But if I want to go fishing in real nature, it's a whole day's project. This place is 10 minutes on the subway."

Mr Koga, who fishes here almost every day, said urban fishing has a "special place" in the fishing world. "It's very difficult fishing. The carp who live here are so used to being caught, they already have many hooks in their mouths. They hate that. They don't want to be fished, but they are fighting hunger. So there is a real psychological battle between me and the carp."

Ichigaya is near what was once the moat of a shogun's castle. Carp, a sign of health

and good fortune in Japanese tradition, have always been stocked in palace moats. The Imperial Palace's impressive moats are still filled with fat orange ones that some Ichigaya fishermen said they would love to have a shot at catching — if it weren't for the fact that it would land them in jail.

Fishermen are allowed to take home one carp an hour, although few do. Carp are greasy to begin with, and living in the thick water of Ichigaya makes them fairly poor eating. Most people trade in fish for coupons for more fishing time.

Yasuhito Watanabe and his wife Keiko fish at Ichigaya every weekend. Keiko's rod jerked, then went still. A carp had stolen her bait and slithered away. Nothing to show for two hours on a milk crate. — Washington Post.

Major's about-face on beef

continued from page 1

have to be voluntary since there were no authoritative records available of cattle of this age.

The framework measures include an effective system for recording the identification and movement of every animal, and legislation to remove meat and bone meal from animal feed.

Britain will be expected to produce fortnightly reports on progress and regular inspections and reports will also be produced by EU officials to prevent evasion. Officials said some commissioners were reluctant to endorse the framework until there were clear signs of a British clampdown. EU heads of government will have to decide at Florence whether they go far enough.

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Simon Patterson, the bookmakers' favourite, at his studio in Bethnal Green, east London. 'I didn't know I was up for it until last week,' he said

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVID BELL/ICM

# Turner shortlist fails to shock

**'It's very boring and very dull. When you think that there's probably only one artist every generation who is any good, it's not surprising that they start scraping the bottom of the barrel'**

**Dan Glalster on a contest between four British men for £20,000 annual award**

FOR some it will be the most controversial shortlist in the recent history of the Turner Prize. For others it will provide a welcome rest from the "But is it art?" debate. The 1996 shortlist announced yesterday by Nick Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, includes four British artists, all male, chosen by a panel of four jurors, all male. But after Damien Hirst took the £20,000 prize last year with his formaldehyde-encased sheep, and Rachel Whiteread in 1993 with her concrete-encased house, the big shock in this year's shortlist was the absence of anything shocking.

Work by the four nominees — Douglas Gordon, Craigie Horsfield, Gary Hume, and Simon Patterson — will go on show at the Tate in October. The winner will be announced in a ceremony to be broadcast live on Channel 4 on November 26. Douglas Gordon, aged 28, gained attention this year for his slowed-down version of the film *Psycho*, screened as part of the Hayward Gallery's Spellbound exhibition. It lasted 24 hours. Craigie Horsfield, aged 46, has come to prominence in the past eight years. His black and white photographs explore urban life



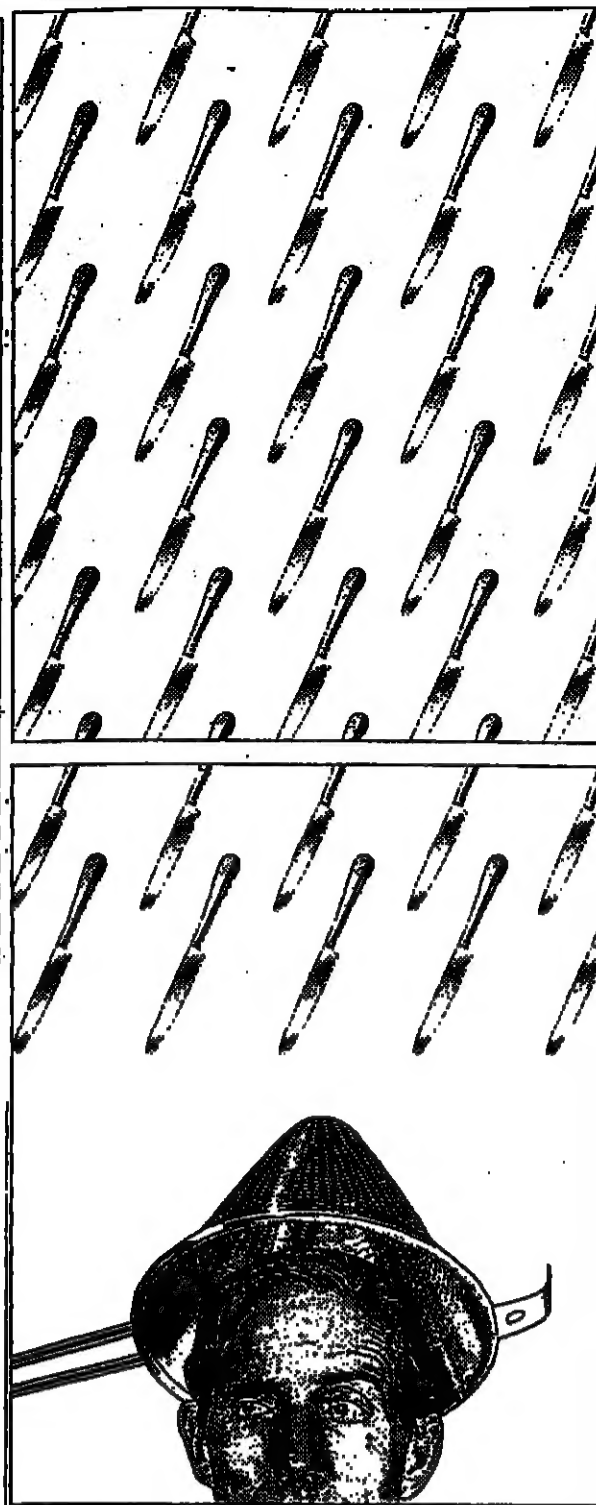
The other contenders, from left: Douglas Gordon, Gary Hume, and Craigie Horsfield

through nudes, landscapes and portraiture. Gary Hume, aged 29, is a painter, described by James Lingwood, one of the judges, as "a lyrical painter of the British seaport at this incredibly interesting moment in British culture." His works include a surreal portrait of Tony Blackburn. Simon Patterson, also 29, uses familiar images to subvert the signs and symbols which rule our lives. Mr Serota said the jury had been surprised at the absence of women on the shortlist. "Maybe there is no single manifestation by a woman that really caught the eye," he said.

Catherine Lampert, director of the Whitechapel Gallery and a former Turner prize judge, professed surprise that no women were included. "Cornelia Parker must have been considered for her glass case at the Serpentine containing the actress Tilda Swinton and Tracy Ermine and Georgina Starr have both produced notable work this year." Simon Patterson, 6/4 favourite with William Hill to win the prize, was surprised by the nomination. "I didn't know I was up for it until last week," he said. Nominations can be made by the public, and by the

judges. This year's judges considered 100 artists. "The Turner prize is always good fun," said Mr Patterson. "I'll just have to see how I cope with the attention." Around him were strewn works in progress, bits of wood, canvases and prints of his current work, based on the periodic tables. His best-known piece, *The Great Bear*, a play on the London Underground map, was propped against one wall. In the map, the names of stations and underground lines are changed. The Northern Line becomes The Film Actors' Line, the Victoria Line is devoted to Italian artists.

the Circle Line is the Philosophers' Line and the District Line is for Saints. The four will exhibit at the Tate until January. In previous years the work has only been exhibited for a month. Mr Serota said that the extension was in response to a rise in interest in contemporary art. "While we may not get the same level of fabled interest, I think that the general level of public interest can be maintained. Many people were coming in last year to see other works." David Lee, editor of *Art Review* magazine, was surprised the jury had chosen a shortlist lacking in novelty. "I would have thought they would have capitalised on the publicity from last year," he said. "It's very boring and very dull. When you think that there's probably only one artist every generation who is any good, it's not surprising that they start scraping the bottom of the barrel." Gary Hume said he thought Damien Hirst should have been nominated for a second time "for doing what he does". The Turner Prize was founded in 1968. The first winner was Malcolm Morley, and subsequent winners have included Howard Hodgkin, Gilbert & George, Richard Long and Antony Gormley.

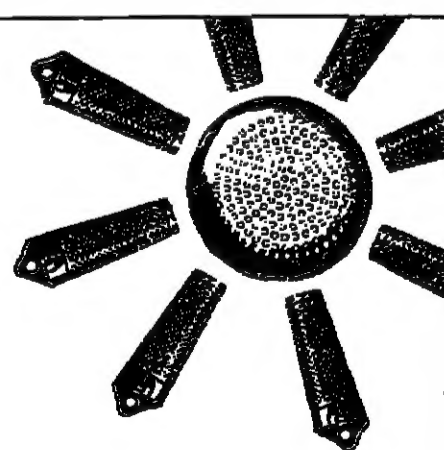


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## Police hunt 'hooded bombers'

Detectives scan videos to trace vehicle's route to Manchester

Martyn Healey and Duncan Campbell

POLICE hunting the Manchester bombers yesterday issued the first descriptions of two hooded men who drove the bomb to the city centre, and the courier who paid for its purchase with an envelope containing £2,000. Detectives are also seeking a woman who they believe could help give them a clear description of one of the men they are hunting. Details emerged as a team of 60 detectives started trying to trace the team which planted one of the largest bombs detonated on the British mainland. It left more than 200 injured and caused an estimated £300 million damage. Detectives are now scrutinising videos which have been handed to the police to try and establish details in the bomb vehicle's last journey from Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, to Manchester. Assistant Chief Constable Colin Phillips of Greater Manchester Police, who is leading the hunt for the bombers, yesterday issued the descriptions in Manchester before travelling to Peterborough, where the vehicle was bought on Friday afternoon and where he made a second appeal for witnesses. He said a taxi driver at the front of a rank on Broadway,



'E' fit of the man seen asking taxi driver to deliver package

next to the Tesco store in the centre of Peterborough, was approached by a man about noon on Friday and offered money to deliver a package. The man, who spoke with an Irish accent and whose "E" fit was released yesterday, was described as between 35 and 40 years old, with a clean-shaven, round face. He had inch-long light brown hair and was said to be heavily built and "somewhat overweight". "He was wearing a pale, blue coloured buttoned-up shirt with long sleeves fastened at the wrist, and dark olive-coloured slacks," said Mr Phillips. "He was of a general untidy appearance." At a later Peterborough press conference, Mr Phillips asked for a white woman in

her red cab, on its 132-mile journey to Manchester. The driver would probably have stopped to buy diesel, and the police are also anxious to know where and when the bomb was assembled. A video released yesterday showed the van, with its distinctive untreated plywood rear door, parked on double yellow lines in Manchester. Police believe one of the men in the van may have talked to someone in St Mary's Gate, Manchester minutes before it was parked at 9.20 am. "We are desperately trying to sort that out," said Mr Phillips. "We know who the person was, and we are just trying to trace them." He described one of the men as white, aged between 30 and 40, of slim build and between 5ft 8ins and 5ft 10ins tall. The man was wearing a navy blue hooded sweatshirt under a dark blue cagoule-type jacket, which was zipped. His companion was also white, aged between 30 and 40, of medium build and about 6ft tall. He was wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt under a dark blue cagoule, also zipped. He was described as having a long nose. Both men wore sunglasses and had the hoods of their sweatshirts over their heads, and both were possibly wearing jeans. After leaving the van, the driver walked along the road for a few yards, along Corporation Street. His companion walked along the kerb. Mr Phillips said: "We are determined to track them down. It's going to be a very difficult and long inquiry and we are determined to amass as much information as we can. Morale in the team is very high."

## Election boost for Yeltsin

David Hearst in Moscow

BORIS YELTSIN'S campaign to retain the presidency received a boost yesterday when three of the defeated candidates in Sunday's first-round election announced they would support Gennady Zyuganov, Mr Yeltsin's Communist challenger, in the run-off next month. Svyatoslav Fyodorov, the millionaire eye surgeon who won 700,000 votes on Sunday, said he would support Mr Yeltsin — a day after the former army general Alexander Lebed, who came third with 11 million votes, joined Mr Yeltsin's kitchen cabinet. The radical nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, and the liberal economist Grigory Yavlinsky said they would not support Mr Zyuganov, but failed to endorse the president. Desperate to stay in the game, Mr Zyuganov and his team counterattacked yesterday, praising key members of Mr Yeltsin's new team while trying to prise voters away. The Communists' message is that a country as divided as Russia can only be governed by the broadest possible coalition. The Zyuganov charm offensive started yesterday when Mikhail Lapsin, the leader of the leftwing Agrarian Party, said Yuri Luzhkov, the mayor of Moscow, would be a good choice as prime minister. Mr Luzhkov is a Yeltsin supporter, but has vast funds and political ambitions of his own.

Mr Zyuganov met and praised Mr Lebed, the new secretary of the powerful National Security Council. He maintained voters were not sheep who would crush the Communists and those who urge compromise, in the knowledge that they might need communist help in fending off a wave of industrial unrest in the autumn. If the near-bankrupt federal budget is unable to pay July and August wages. Mr Yeltsin cancelled a trip to the G7 summit in Lyon next week, frightened to leave the country at such a critical time. The second round could be very close, and presidential advisers fear a low turnout — many richer Yeltsin supporters go on holiday in July. Vyacheslav Nikonov, an adviser, said that a turnout of only 50 million could lose Mr Yeltsin the election. With defections from the Lebed, Zhirinovskiy and Fyodorov camps, the Communist leader could muster 30 million votes. It would only take a record military setback in Chechnya. The Central Election Commission yesterday proposed bringing the vote forward to Wednesday July 3, a date surprisingly agreed by Mr Zyuganov. Mr Yeltsin favours a weekday, when his supporters are in town, as opposed to a Sunday when they are at their dachas.



TV TIMES: Network chief attacks diet of sex and violence • Children prefer adult shows • Non-stop video games



Band of Gold (left) had merit but its scheduling alongside The Governor and Cracker made it "too dark, too heavy," Bruce Gyngell said, and there should have been more debate about Karaoke (right). He banned The Good Sex Guide (centre)

# Television 'is sinking into sleaze'

Programmes 'would once have been shown only in Soho clip joints'

Andrew Culf  
Media Correspondent

**M**AINSTREAM television is in danger of sinking into a mire of sleaze and violence, one of Britain's most senior broadcasters warned last night.

Bruce Gyngell, managing director of Yorkshire-Tyne Tees Television, said some of ITV's late night shows would previously have been screened only in Soho clip joints, while peak time dramas subjected viewers to an unremitting diet of violence.

He told an audience of television executives the medium should not be used to shock and offend by depicting extremes of behaviour.

Mr Gyngell, who returned to British television a year ago after two years in Australia, said: "In the past five years there has been a steady corrosion of values. A medium that once celebrated all that was positive and good in our culture is now beginning to denigrate those values."

The former TV-am chief



has taken a firm line against programmes such as The Good Sex Guide and God's Gift, a late night dating game, by banning them from the Yorkshire region.

"We have reached the stage where so-called entertainment, which once could only be found in the seedy cellars and basements of Soho clip joints, is paraded on television as if it were respectable," he told a Royal Television Society dinner in London.

Managers should not be afraid to censor, Mr Gyngell argued. "We broadcasters have that duty — to consider what we put out, to ensure that it does not undermine society as a whole."

It would have been better to have had a public debate about the suitability of Den-

nis Potter's last works, Karaoke and Cold Lazarus — screened by BBC1 and Channel 4 and criticised for their strong language. "Instead of rushing to indulge the delusions of a dying man"

ITV drama including The Governor, Band of Gold, and Cracker, had great merit, but scheduling them in a block over the weekend was "too dark, too heavy and perhaps too ominous".

Mr Gyngell asked: "What are we doing to our sensibilities and moral values, and more importantly, those of our children, when day after day, we broadcast an unremitting diet of violence, extremes of sexuality, and of conflictual negative behaviour?"

"We have gone too far down the road of so-called freedom, and our terrestrial television is in danger of becoming a mire of salaciousness, negativity and violence. It's not all right that the worst excesses are late at night; children do watch them, and they do have video recorders."

ITV was in danger of throwing away the public's trust for the sake of a few rating points late at night.

It had become fashionable among certain sections of the television community to vie with each other to see who could produce the most risqué programme.

Mr Gyngell denied his views were illiberal or anti-creative; it was the job of broadcasters to improve standards not destroy them.

Children reveal adult viewing tastes as soaps beat shows for young in ratings

**C**HILDREN prefer adult programmes, including EastEnders, Brookside and The X-Files, rather than shows specifically made for their age range, according to research published yesterday, writes Andrew Culf.

Australian soaps, including Home and Away and Neighbours, were more popular choices than Blue Peter or Grange Hill among children questioned for the Children's Media Monitor Survey.

The findings coincided with a BBC governors' seminar in which the future of children's broadcasting in a digital, multi-channel environment was discussed.

Senior BBC executives warned it must adapt its £60 million, 1,200 hours-a-year children's output or risk jeopardising the corporation's future.

David Docherty, controller of planning and strategy for BBC TV, warned: "If children do not inherit, choose and habitually learn the values of public service broadcasting from a schedule that makes them laugh, think and learn, the BBC's future will be jeopardised."

Michael Green, control-

**Watching without Mother**  
Programmes attracting largest audience of 4- to 15-year-olds Between Jan - May 1996 (000s)

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Honey I Blew Up the Kids (ITV)    | 2,941 |
| Gladiators: The Aches (ITV)       | 2,828 |
| Neighbours (BBC1)                 | 2,772 |
| Casualty (BBC1)                   | 2,733 |
| Gladiators (ITV)                  | 2,577 |
| National Lottery Live (BBC1)      | 2,547 |
| EastEnders (BBC1)                 | 2,536 |
| Coronation Street (ITV)           | 2,490 |
| Demon Headmaster (BBC1)           | 2,434 |
| New Adventures of Superman (BBC1) | 2,426 |

**Some of our favourite things**  
Survey of 1,002 children, aged 7-17 years old, %

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Home and Away (ITV)     | 8 |
| Neighbours (BBC1)       | 7 |
| Soldier, Soldier (ITV)  | 6 |
| EastEnders (BBC1)       | 4 |
| The X-Files (BBC1)      | 4 |
| Match of the Day (BBC1) | 4 |

Cable channel offers Sonic the Hedgehog video game round the clock

**V**IDEO games like Sonic the Hedgehog and Ecco the Dolphin became available round the clock yesterday with the launch of the Sega Channel, Europe's first interactive games network.

For a subscription of £10 per month, cable television households will be able to buy 24-hour access to 25 games each month, as well as previews of new titles.

Educationalists yesterday voiced concern about the amount of time children spent on computer games. Research last year by Plymouth university found that one in four played more than 30 hours a week, at the expense of homework.

Tim Gill, policy officer at the Children's Play Council, said the video games must be put into context. "It's not a matter of these things being good or bad. These games are a consequence of children kept indoors more because of concerns about the safety of the outdoor environment."

Sega said that parents could program the system to control the hours per week their



Reg, from ITV's Scratchy & Co. at the Sega launch

children could play on it. Games also have a four-tier rating, allowing parents to bar access to unsuitably violent levels using a personal identification number system.

Telewest Communications, Britain's largest operator, has become the first network to take the channel.

Sega is likely to increase the cable market; children under 15 account for more than 50 per cent of the cable-viewing audience. Figures published this month by the Independent Television Commission show that more people sign up for cable companies' cheap phone services than buy their TV packages.

The channel will also strengthen Sega's grip on the British video games market.

## Court focuses on 'blurred wedding video'

**W**EDDING videos are all the rage these days, and there was plenty of that at Birmingham crown court yesterday. So much for the film being a treasured record of the happiest day in the lives of David Farrell and Sarah Edwards.

Paul Miles, a professional cameraman who has worked on "Tomorrow's World" and "Boon", found his video proved anything but for the Wolverhampton couple. It is said to have included out of focus shots of the bride's dress; guests' faces merging into the shadows; and blurred zoom shots at St Phillip's Church, Wolverhampton, on August 26 last year.

Barrie Blackmore, of Bar-



rie's Professional Video Service in Kingswinford, West Midlands, is suing Mr Miles for £750 compensation, and is claiming back the £275 the



bride and groom were charged. He had hired Mr Miles to make the video, and wants his £70 fee returned. The two men bickered

throughout yesterday's hearing. Mr Blackmore, representing himself, repeatedly interrupted when questioning Mr Miles. Judge David McCarthy warned him: "Please do not be offensive to a witness in the case."

Wolverhampton county court, sitting in Birmingham, had previously watched the video on a television Mr Blackmore had brought to court.

Mr Miles alleged the contrast and colour settings had been tampered with to make his video look bad. A court television was used yesterday; still the men failed to agree on the correct brightness and colour settings.

Mr Blackmore, representing himself, told Mr Miles: "This kind of work is an insult to British television cor-

porations. Is what we are seeing here the type of tape you would produce for the networks?"

Mr Miles, a senior lecturer in television studies at Sandwell College in the West Midlands, believed his edited and colour-enhanced tape of the wedding was of merchantable quality.

He had offered to improve the video before the newlyweds returned from honeymoon. But Mr Blackmore had refused to hand over a copy. He had gone to his employers, threatening media exposure.

Mr Miles said: "If he was a businessman of repute, his sole intention would be to his client. I had never known a company try to get retribution like this rather than sort out the problem."

The case continues.

## Tanker pilot accused

**J**OHNS Pearn, pilot of the tanker Sea Empress which ran aground at Milford Haven in February, appeared before a tribunal yesterday charged with behaving with either incompetence or misconduct.

Mr Pearn, aged 34, faces losing his licence and his job if found guilty by the three-man tribunal on the board of the Milford Haven Port Authority, which is meeting in private.

There was surprise yesterday that the authority, some of whose members may face criticism over the oil spill disaster, is acting against the pilot before the Department of Transport has issued its own

report on the incident. Mr Pearn was charged under the Pilotage Act of 1987 with "misconduct or incompetence affecting his capabilities as a pilot."

A spokesman for the authority said he had continued in his job since the incident. However, the government inquiry report would not be published for another 18 months, and it was felt any action against the pilot should be taken sooner rather than later.

On February 15 the ship hit the rocks on its way into Milford Haven with 150,000 tonnes of crude oil on board. Around 70,000 tonnes of the oil spilled into the sea and contaminated the coast. The clean-up is still under way.

The inquiry team is looking into Mr Pearn's conduct and

role, and why the tanker apparently veered off course on to the rocks. All sides are represented by lawyers. Mr Pearn has chosen not to speak publicly since the accident.

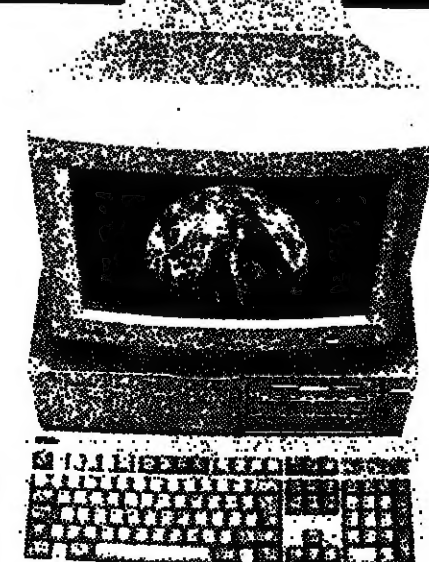
If the allegations against him are proved his pilot's licence could be suspended or revoked, effectively stopping him from working. He would have the right of appeal to the full board of the port authority and the courts.

Some fellow pilots have complained privately that the hearing is like a court martial, and they fear that Mr Pearn will be made a scapegoat even though others in more senior positions had roles in the disaster.

Mike Hyslop, the authority's general manager, said the hearing was expected to conclude today.

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# 'Gritty' Major deploys balancing act to stay on the EU tightrope

## Federalism rejected but Britain will not 'turn back on Europe'

Michael White Political Editor

JOHN Major yesterday warned both sides in the running controversy over the future shape of Europe that he will go on fighting for the flexible Anglo-Saxon model, even if it means that Britain will remain the troublesome "grit in the European oyster."

Faced with a simmering feud within his party, Mr Major again sought to walk the Euro-tightrope between both extremes. "We gain tremendous benefits from being part of Europe. While I have made clear that I will not allow Britain to be absorbed into centralised federal structures, neither do I contemplate turning our back on Europe," he said.

Warning his EU partners that the threat to their prosperity will come from eastern Europe as well from Asia in the next 20 years, the Prime Minister insisted that Britain's deregulated, low tax approach to economic management was the best way forward. "Our arguments about the future of Europe are arguments we must seek to win not just for Britain, but for Europe as a whole," he told a City audience in Goldsmith's Hall - which was not named after the founder of the Referendum Party.

Mr Major attacked the social chapter - "it has good intentions, but bad outcomes" - and said the EU faced an economic challenge to become more competitive as well as a political challenge "to accommodate an enlarged membership with increasingly diverse opinions and interests."

On a day when a Harris poll shows strong hostility to a single Euro-currency when blunt questions are asked of French and German as well as British voters, Mr Major's remarks will nonetheless annoy EU colleagues gathering for the summit in Florence.

Without directly reminding his other audience in Brussels of their protectionist traditions and their history of wartime conquest and defeat, Mr Major argued that Britain's instincts and traditions were different from theirs in crucial respects.

"Of course, we have much more in common than divides us. But we are instinctive free traders. Not all our partners share those same instincts. Our 20th century experiences are different. Our politics are more black and white, more adversarial, more blood and thunder, so we are sometimes uneasy partners. That may mean bumpy times ahead, but it is nonsense to suggest the only choice is to accept Europe as it is offered, or negotiate an exit," said Mr Major, who offered a distinctly unapologetic justification of his tactics over beef and the post-Maastricht review.

Urging respect for widely-different traditions, he said: "Political structures simply won't work unless their legitimacy is accepted willingly by the people they govern. That's why I believe in retaining the nation state as the fundamental unit of sovereignty."

Yet he went on to list issues on which closer co-operation could develop, ranging from defence and anti-crime work to reform of EU institutions.

Hugo Young, page 8

# BSE cull extension deal signals big British retreat

Stephen Bates in Strasbourg and David Henkel

BRITAIN yesterday signalled agreement to the cull of up to an additional 67,000 elderly cattle to prevent the collapse of the Florence summit, save John Major's face and end the prospect of the Government's European Union non-co-operation policy dragging on into the autumn.

The Government still insists that European proposals to extend the cull to include those born in 1989 from BSE-infected herds are scientifically unnecessary and difficult to implement, because mandatory birth records for cattle were only introduced in 1990.

Ministers' embarrassment was increased yesterday by the revelation that John Gummer, then agriculture minister, turned down a £10 million plan to set up a national cattle database which could have saved some of the 2600 million cost of slaughtering cows to prevent the disease spreading.

The cull agreed yesterday is in addition to the slaughter of all animals aged more than 30 months, or at the end of their working lives, which the Government has started to implement. The new cull could amount to as many as 67,000 cattle, or could be as few as a third of that number, since many are likely already to have been killed routinely or because of the emergency BSE culling policy.

Extending the cull amounts to a considerable change in Britain's position since the crisis broke in March. First the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, suggested the number of extra cattle to be culled, apart from those older than 30 months would be in the "low tens of thousands". Then he insisted 42,000 would be the highest number he could persuade MPs to accept.

In May, the Government suddenly said it would be prepared to slaughter up to 80,000 cattle. The latest retreat, accepted yesterday by Keith Meldrum, the chief veterinary officer, at a meeting of the veterinary committee in Brussels, takes that figure to nearly 150,000.

The veterinary committee indicated last Friday that it would be prepared - despite misgivings from some member states - to accept a culling policy dated back to 1988, the year the Government first instructed farmers to stop feeding animal meal to their stock.

The proposal - which Mr Hogg had insisted a day earlier was based on "a pretty slight foundation" when he appeared before the Commons agricultural committee - was accepted to break the

diplomatic logjam in advance of tomorrow's summit.

Britain originally balked at the extra year partly because of the difficulties of tracing animals born before the birth registration policy was introduced.

Robin Turner, director of National Milk Records, confirmed yesterday that tracing infected cattle and pinpointing of herds at risk would be far easier if a national database mooted in the late 1980s were in operation.

Mr Turner said the scheme was suggested between 1988 and 1990 as a way of improving genetic standards of cattle.

"Arguments against it included the technology was cumbersome, and that it would cost £10 million to introduce, and the industry was divided over it. But the main reason was that the Ministry of Agriculture signalled that it was not prepared to fund it."

## Blair shift on employment rights alarms union leaders

Souran Hill and Martin Kettle

TRADE union leaders yesterday reacted with dismay to Tony Blair's public downgrading of legal rights at work in his Monday speech to German industrialists, and the growing signals that Labour is moving away from John Smith's promise of full employment rights for all from the first day in a job.

The issue led to sharp exchanges between Blair loyalists and critics at yesterday's Trades Union Congress general council meeting. The fire-fighters' leader Ken Cameron said later that ditching the former Labour leader's commitment to protection from unfair dismissal for all would be an "absolute disgrace".

Others drew comfort from the fact that a Labour policy paper on employment rights due to be published tomorrow will say only that the quality of jobs for unfair dismissal protection - currently two years - is under review.

Mr Blair's office tried to dampen speculation that his comments in Bonn on rethinking "our philosophy in relation to the labour market" could be interpreted as wholesale opposition to enactment of new rights for workers by a Labour government.

But he stressed the Labour leader did not believe that job security could be achieved through legislation alone.

The Smith commitment to unfair dismissal protection from day one was offered as a public olive branch at the TUC in 1983 after the exclusion of unions from Labour parliamentary selections. The first sign that Labour was moving away from it came last week at the CMB general conference in Blackpool, when Labour's deputy leader John Prescott omitted it from his prepared speech.

Eric Holtmann, page 9

## MP in legal challenge on eve of Labour seat re-run

Erlend Clouston

THE eligibility of two dozen Labour Party members to vote in a crucial parliamentary selection contest will be challenged in the courts today.

MP Mike Watson, fighting for his political life against millionaire Mohammed Sarwar, claims the party has broken its own rules in allowing the 24 to participate in this weekend's re-run vote to decide Labour's candidate in the new Glasgow Govan constituency, a safe Labour seat.

Mr Watson, the 47-year-old MP for Glasgow Central, claims discrepancies between members' registered Labour Party addresses and the electoral roll rules them out of a ballot which he won first time round by a single vote.

His lawyer will ask the Court of Session in Edinburgh to disqualify the 24 from a ballot ordered by Labour's national executive committee after 43-year-old Mr Sarwar, a Glasgow councillor bidding to become the first parliamentary representative of the United Kingdom's three million Muslims, threatened legal action over the blacklisting of 51 votes in the original contest.

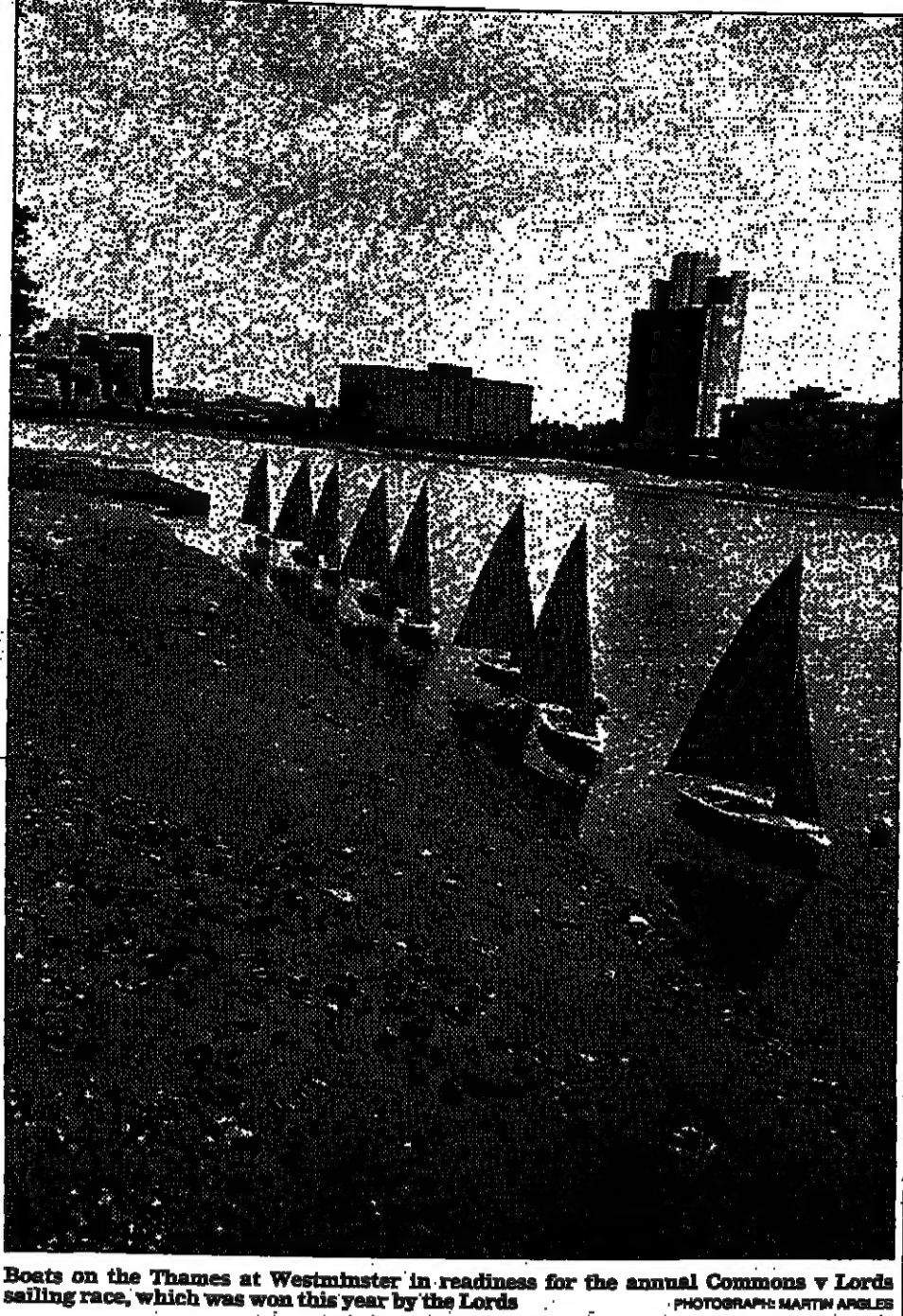
Labour's rulebook says there should be no confusion over members' homes, unless there are exceptional circumstances. The party refused to comment on Mr Watson's action, but it will not have amused national officials who helped compile a list of around 500 purportedly eligible voters after allegations of racism, forgery and enforced recruitment.

Alan Howard, the MP who defeated the Tories last year, yesterday put himself forward as a possible prospective Labour candidate for the Manchester seat of Wythenshawe and Sale East at the next election. The new constituency can be regarded as a safe Labour seat.

Eric Holtmann, page 9

## Emotions may be complex but divorce is, in essence, about the ownership of property, capital and children.

Suzanne Moore



Boats on the Thames at Westminster in readiness for the annual Commons v Lords sailing race, which was won this year by the Lords

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6 WORLD NEWS

Zodiac killing suspect held

Ian Katz in New York

POLICE believe they have caught a serial killer who terrorised New York for several months in 1969 by killing and maiming at least 37 people...

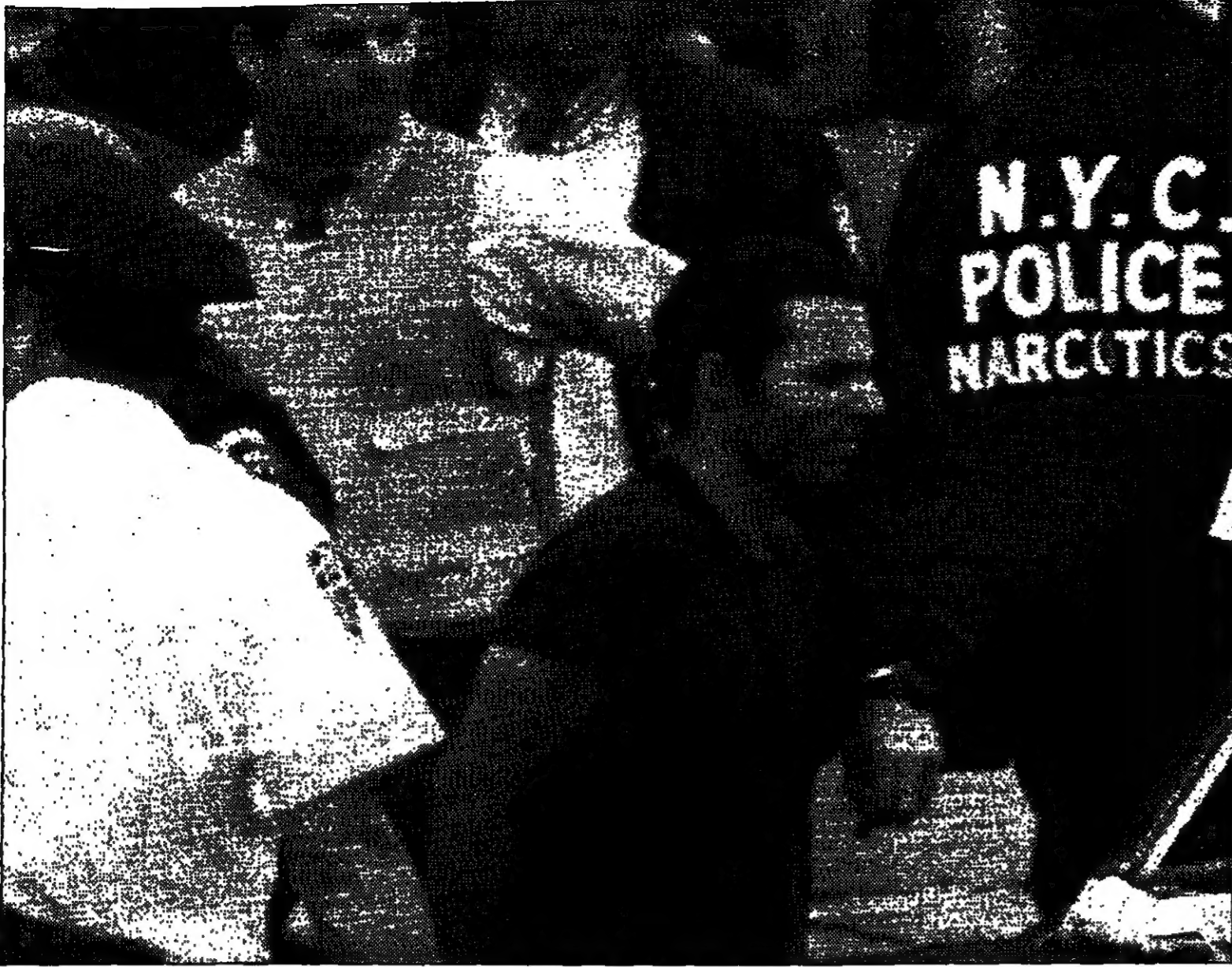
The alleged killer, who called himself Zodiac, was arrested after a shootout with police that befitted the Hollywood thriller his story is certain to inspire.

Police linked Heriberto Seda, aged 29, with the zodiac killings after noticing similarities between his language and letters claiming responsibility for the star sign attacks.

Mr Seda emerged yesterday as a reclusive, unemployed weapons fanatic who had amassed a vast arsenal of home-made guns and bombs.

Police claim to have matched Mr Seda's fingerprints against partial prints found at the scene of one of the zodiac killings and on a letter from the killer.

He was arrested after he shot his sister, Gladys Reyes, aged 17, in the flat



Date with destiny... Police in New York lead away Heriberto Seda, who is believed responsible for the 1969 'Zodiac' killings. PHOTOGRAPH BY BRUCE COLEMAN

he shared with her and their mother. He then opened fire on police and pedestrians on a crowded Brooklyn street.

He later lost several hundred officers pinned down with raking fire from his house for three hours before agreeing to surrender.

was shot before dawn on a Thursday, precisely 21 days after the previous attack.

The victims included a 30-year-old homeless man shot in Central Park and a 78-year-old man attacked outside his Brooklyn home.

The attacks and taunted police in letters to news organisations.

One of the largest police task forces ever assembled in the city was bussed by how the killer knew the star signs of his victims.

Mr Lindsey is deputy counsel to the president, a post formerly held by another Arkansas lawyer, Vince Foster, whose suicide in July 1993 plunged the administration into a swirl of scandal and allegations from which it has never quite recovered.

Outside an election year, the failure of the Republican prosecution to bring charges against the president's man might come as a relief to the White House.

Mr Lindsey, the campaign treasurer, has in effect been accused of conspiring with the bankers to hide the cash payments, which were used in a traditional Southern way for a get-out-the-vote effort among black electors.

Mr Lindsey was named by the prosecution in the trial of two bankers in Little Rock, Arkansas, Herbert Branscum and Robert Hill, co-owners of the Perry County bank, are charged with concealing cash payments and illegal payments to the Clinton campaign.

Clinton aide named in funds trial

Martin Walker in Washington

THE relentless siege of the White House continued yesterday as President Clinton's closest political adviser was named in a deliberate echo of the original Watergate scandal, as an unindicted co-conspirator in a criminal case in Little Rock.

Only the statute of limitations spared Bruce Lindsey, the last of the Arkansas loyalists still in the White House, from a criminal charge for his handling of the finances of Mr Clinton's 1990 campaign for re-election as governor of Arkansas.

Mr Clinton stood firmly by Mr Lindsey, saying: "He was thoroughly investigated and not charged. I have absolute confidence in him."

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"I know of nothing to suggest that," the White House replied yesterday when asked whether Mr Lindsey's days at the president's right hand were now numbered.

Mr Lindsey is "an indefinite administrative leave" - the political equivalent of helping the police with their inquiries.

The justice department and the FBI are making their own inquiries into the way the FBI's secret files on Republicans as prominent as the former secretary of state James Baker and the former press secretary Martin Fitzwater were kept in a White House vault for more than a year.

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Europe's car pollution plan stuck in slow lane

Stephen Babus in Strasbourg

STRICTER controls on vehicle emission levels, designed to reduce pollution by 70 per cent over the next decade, were proposed by the European Commission yesterday and immediately drew attacks from both the car industry and environmentalists.

Lobbyists claimed the planned controls on diesel and petrol contents were so lax they did not meet average European standards on the composition of fuel.

Under the plan, critics argued, control levels would still be a third higher in a decade than those already enforced in some Scandinavian countries and the United States, and would prove "woefully inadequate" in reducing air pollution.

The possibility of member states such as Sweden and Finland coming into conflict with the European Union over their attempts to impose stricter tax penalties on less environmentally friendly grades of petrol.

The directive, adopted by the Commission at its meeting in Strasbourg, has provoked strong opposition from industry during its three years in preparation. Last night, MEPs were saying it would be heavily rewritten when it comes before the European Parliament.

But three of the 20 commissioners most closely involved in drawing up the proposals said they would hugely improve air quality at negligible cost to consumers, raising petrol prices by the equivalent of less than a gallon a year for drivers doing about 8,000 miles a year.

Ritt Bjerregaard, Denmark's environment commis-

sioner, said: "The programme will lead to a considerable improvement in air quality and that will be of tremendous benefit to everyone in the EU."

The proposals are seen as a missed chance to tackle urban air problems'

two-stage implementation process. There would be tighter emission standards for passenger vehicles and higher quality standards for petrol and diesel by the start of the year 2000. Further proposals - to be made by the Commission in the light of available evidence by the end of 1998 - would be implemented from 2005.

It sets targets for reducing carbon monoxide by 70 per cent from current levels by 2010 and cutting nitrogen oxides by 65 per cent during the same period. It demands improvements in car manufacturing standards and the phasing out of non-lead fuel by the turn of the century, although member states could apply for temporary delays of up to three years.

The directive suggests member states could extend tax breaks and differentials to companies which meet emission standards earlier than the deadlines.

The cost to industry would be about \$5 billion a year for the first decade of the next century, with the oil-refining industry alone facing extra costs of more than \$700 million a year.

missed opportunity to tackle existing urban air pollution and growing respiratory problems."

Carlo Cucchì, director of the European Auto Manufacturers' Association, said: "We can meet these controls but it will increase manufacturing costs by between 3 and 5 per cent at a time when manufacturers are operating on profit margins of 2 per cent."

"Our chief problem though is that while we are being asked to do a lot, the oil producers are being asked to do very little. Diesel fuels already meet these standards. It is not a fair burden for us."

But the Arco Chemical Europe oil refiners said the directive fell short of standards already in force in Scandinavia, stating that while it set a maximum aromatic content limit of 45 per cent, the current maximum in Finland and the US was 30 per cent and the European average 40 per cent.

Home workers' rights split UN labour group

Owen Bennett Jones in Geneva

A FIERCE row has developed at the annual assembly of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva over whether it should adopt an international convention to protect the rights of home workers.

There will be a vote on the issue later today. A draft convention, which has already been prepared by an ILO committee, defines home workers as people who work for an employer but not on the employer's premises.

The convention aims to protect workers who are effectively employees of a company, but who do not have the legal protection enjoyed by regular employees.

Giella Schneider, an ILO official, has long been concerned about the plight of home workers. "Home workers do need protection - it's a question of how best to deliver that," UK employers' representative Alan Wilds said. "Tighter regulation will just drive home working underground."

While they are resisting the adoption of an internationally binding convention, the employers say they have no objection to the ILO issuing advice on the issue.

Workers' representatives at the convention believe that the employers' arguments are little better than sophistry. They say that the real concern of the employers do not centre on definitional issues but on the extra costs a convention would impose.

Bill Brett, the IUC nominee to the work-out-the-vote effort among black electors. He said yesterday that his naming was "a procedural device" which would let the prosecution introduce otherwise inadmissible hearsay evidence against the bankers.

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Today's vote is expected to be close. There are three groups which can cast ballots - the workers, the employers and the governments. With the workers' group in favour of a convention and the employers' group against, the final decision will rest with governments, which are said to be split down the middle on the issue.

On the eve of the vote, workers' representatives said they needed to persuade more than 20 countries to join their camp if they are to be sure of victory. They say they expect Britain to vote against.

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The Guardian Offer Rub in then finish by smearing on a generous portion of tar Half price dry cleaning at Sketchley

News in brief

Burmese regime suggests dialogue with Suu Kyi

BURMA'S military government said yesterday that it was doing all it could to move towards dialogue with the pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, but said the opposition should show some flexibility if talks were to take place.

Realising dialogue is needed for genuine reconciliation, cordial relations are being established for peace," said a commentary published in several newspapers.

However, the call for dialogue coincided with a report in the Japanese press claiming that Ms Suu Kyi may be close to arrest. Mainichi

Shimbu quoted unidentified sources in Tokyo as saying that an arrest could take place by the end of this week.

At least 35 Burmese pro-democracy politicians are still in jail following the government's crackdown last month, according to Amnesty International yesterday.

Since her release last July from six years of house arrest, Ms Suu Kyi has been calling on the military regime to agree to hold talks with her National League for Democracy party and with ethnic groups in a peaceful way to bring democracy to the country. - Reuters

Ekeus flies to Baghdad

THE United Nations disarmament commissioner Rolf Ekeus left Bahrain for Baghdad yesterday to try to persuade Iraqi officials to open weapon sites to his inspectors.

Mr Ekeus, chairman of the UN special commission, is mandated by the Security Council to seek immediate and unconditional access to all suspected Iraqi weapons sites. Iraq must give up its weapons of mass destruction and means of chemical and biological warfare before the UN will lift the Gulf war sanctions.

Californian boy gets 25-to-life

A BOY of 15 who committed a murder at the age of 14 has become the youngest person to receive a 25-years-to-life sentence in California, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles.

Tony Edward Hicks wept as he told with the judge in San Diego: "I'll be a better person. I won't mess up. I want to hold my mom as tight as I can and beg her to take me out of jail."

Cypriot leader wins British backing for move to restart peace talks with Turks

Ian Black Diplomatic Editor

BRITAIN yesterday promised to play an active role in the search for peace in Cyprus at a time when AegEAN tensions and the divided island's hopes of joining the European Union have revived international interest.

President Glafcos Clerides saw John Major in Downing Street after flying in from Washington with a commitment from President Bill Clinton to send a new emissary to the region.

Britain, one of Cyprus's three "guarantor powers", last month appointed its own special representative, the former ambassador to the United Nations, Sir David Hannay.

Against a background of rising tensions between Greece and Turkey, both members of Nato, the Turkish Cypriots complained to the UN earlier this week about an alleged violation of their air space by Greek air force jets on exercises connected with a Cyprus-Greece defence pact.

Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of Cyprus in 1974, saying it was protecting the 18 per cent Turkish Cypriot minority following a short-lived coup by Athens-backed Greek Cypriot extremists.

again in doubt after the collapse of the government of Tansu Ciller in Ankara.

One has to admit that this noisy, thumping conflation of hardware and hard men on the whole does what is required of it. Derek Malcolm. G2 page 8

Whirlpool advertisement with large stylized text and a small image of a washing machine.

Handwritten note: JP 11/10/96



# Whirling Snowflake stirs a cultural storm

Andrew Higgins meets an ageing icon of Chinese beauty who has revived an old tradition in the literary press

OVER the millennia, the Chinese literary tradition has always relished a good row. The arcana of Confucianism, the prosody of Tang dynasty verse and the peculiarly occult dogmas of modern Maoism have all propelled feisty polemics.

But never before have the bells in an intellectual tradition of sublime refinement and grace become agitated by a 48-year-old would-be beauty queen in orange hot pants and plastic high heels.

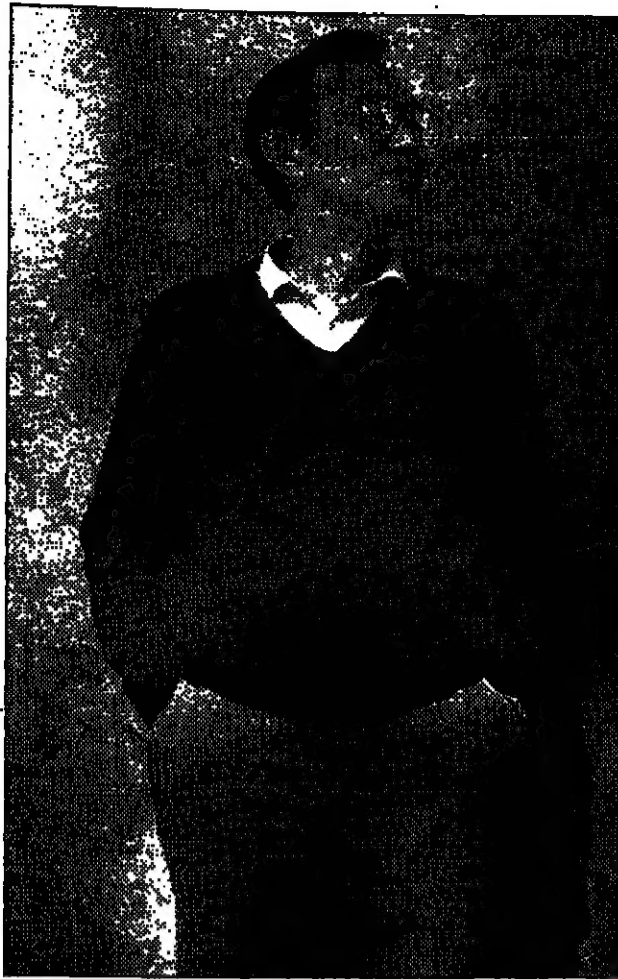
A leading chronicler of China's gulag has written a gushing tribute. Others, appalled by such low-brow passions, have responded with abuse and innuendo. Even the Communist Party has joined in, exhorting a debate which its propaganda department has judged "unhelpful to the construction of spiritual civilisation".

The woman exciting some of China's finest minds is Gong Xuehua (Snowflake Gong), otherwise known as Coco, a one-time Red Guard from Shanghai who shot to stardom last year when she took the stage with hundreds of women half her age to finish fourth in the Miss Asia Pageant in Hong Kong.

Her achievements since then include a colour spread in a Chinese-language edition of Penthouse, assorted roles in Hong Kong soap operas, and a just completed autobiography entitled, with characteristic immodesty, Overnight Sensation.

Her life, she says, offers more thrills than Gone with the Wind.

Fiction, rather than fact, is her forte. A self-promoter of epic energy, she has changed her name and her story with



### 才子佳人

Gifted scholar, beautiful woman

an insouciance that raises eyebrows even in Hong Kong, a city of self-made immigrants which usually regards the right to reinvent oneself as the most basic of human liberties.

"People are interested in me because I have certain mystery," she told the Guardian, her lips smeared in cherry red lipstick, her face masked by a thick layer of kohl white. "I can't tell everyone my secrets."

Among the mysteries are

her marital status, two children she says belong to someone else, and her date of birth. "I can't tell you my birthday because Chinese can tell fortunes. If they know exactly when you were born they can work out your destiny and publish it in the papers."

Ms Gong's celebrity used to be confined to glossy Hong Kong magazines dedicated to steamy gossip about sultry starlets, Cantopop crooners and billionaire bachelors. Today, her name and picture



crowd the columns of Guangzhou Literature and Art, the Shanghai Literary Journal and Hong Kong's highbrow Ming Pao Monthly.

The interest of China's chattering classes began with Zhang Xianliang, a writer of unimpeachable seriousness who spent 22 years in Mao Zedong's labour camps. His most recent books, Grass Scorp and My Bodhi Tree, graphic accounts of mass starvation during the Great Leap Forward, have been

translated and published in Britain.

Writing recently in Guangzhou Literature and Art, Mr Zhang explained how he had met Ms Gong during a visit to Hong Kong and accepted her offer of a place to stay. He waxed lyrical about the "Snowflake Gong Phenomenon", and hailed her as China's answer to Nancy Sinatra, who went even further by posing naked for Playboy in her fifties.

"She is a snowflake floating

in the sky. When a snowflake hits the ground it turns to mud, but words can preserve such a snowflake, creating a specimen that can freeze her natural form on the page."

Ms Gong's refusal to bow to the coy conventions of her advancing years, he wrote, should serve as an inspiration to the entire world, a reminder that "it is not only the tender beauty of youth that attracts attention but the deep beauty of maturity that has greater appeal".

Musings on the definition of beauty are familiar in Chinese literature. It is a theme with particular poignancy for tens of millions of middle-aged Chinese who, like Ms Gong and Mr Zhang, lost their youth to the madness of the Cultural Revolution and other political campaigns.

Nor is it unusual for an earnest Chinese intellectual to fall for a glamorous celebrity. Mao himself became infatuated with Shanghai starlet, his third wife Jiang Qing. The

experience is so much a part of Chinese literature that the story line of countless classic romances has been distilled into a simple four-character phrase: *caizi jiarou* - gifted scholar, beautiful woman.

Precedent, however, has done nothing to save Mr Zhang from a storm of scorn and complaints of squandered talent. "Should Zhang Xianliang write like this?" asked the headline of a disapproving article in the Literary Journal.

An editorial in the same organ quoted China's greatest modern writer, Lu Xun, on the perils of "empty and insipid" themes. "It cannot be denied that a woman of over 40 competing in a Hong Kong beauty contest is news, a simple amusement to relieve boredom... but how sad for a pen that has created such moving works in the past."

The journal quoted an unnamed intellectual as grumbling: "Yet another famous figure has fallen for her."

As long as intellectuals were squabbling among themselves in private or in obscure journals, the Communist Party paid little attention. But this changed when the mass circulation Xinhua Evening News, the most popular newspaper in Guangzhou, began to serialise Mr Zhang's paean of praise to Snowflake Gong.

Cultural commissars in the southern city's Communist Party propaganda department denounced the work as "low-grade" and called a meeting to criticise the Evening News for reprinting it, according to sources in Hong Kong.

The party, famously disolute in private but rigidly prudish in public, prefers more conventional models of blushing femininity.

Appearing last week in the lobby of a Hong Kong shopping mall alongside three young starlets to launch a recruitment drive for this year's Miss Asia contest, Ms Gong revelled in the new wave of publicity.

"Chinese scholars always tend to scorn each other. What they say reeks of 'I despise you, you despise me'. They have no right to comment on me. They should shut up."

The peoples of the tropical forests face threats from developers thousands of miles apart. In South America, Paul Brown writes, tribes have been wiped out by disease as settlers and loggers invade — with international connivance. In Malaysia, writes Nicholas Cumming-Bruce, campaigners now have the law on their side but may have won only a temporary reprieve

## Brazil 'diverted' World Bank aid

MORE than £100 million from the World Bank provided to rectify its own environmental mistakes in Brazil has been diverted into damaging road-building and ranching projects, according to Oxfam.

The indictment of the bank's Planaflores scheme in the Brazilian north-west frontier state of Rondonia comes on the eve of a meeting between the bank and local authorities and non-governmental organisations which were supposed to have a say in how the money was spent. Oxfam accuses the bank of allowing the state government to divert the funds.

Rondonia was opened up by World Bank funds in the 1970s and 1980s, when money was provided to build roads, and thousands of settlers moved in. Forests were cut down and whole tribes of Indians which previously had little contact with the outside world were wiped out by diseases brought in by the settlers. With the small farmers and speculators came the havoc caused by logging companies.

In the run-up to the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the bank was heavily criticised for helping the destruction of the rain forest and its peoples. In Rio it promised reforms, and the Planaflores project

was put forward as part of this process.

Yesterday the bank expressed dismay at the Oxfam statement. "We have to work with the local government; it is a difficult thing to control in what amounts to a frontier situation. We will listen to what they say and try and make things better," a spokesman said.

Oxfam has spent four years monitoring the project and claims that at today's meeting the World Bank is preparing the way for a "graceful exit". Patricia Feeney, Oxfam UK's Brazilian expert, said: "The bank has failed to exercise proper financial control

over the project. Community initiatives, the indigenous health programme and support for environmental reserves have all suffered from not receiving earmarked funds, and are all at a virtual standstill."

Gobind Nankani, the World Bank director for the region, said in Washington that it had overestimated the ability of the local government to administer the scheme properly. "We are conducting this review to restructure the whole thing and make it work. We are not going to abandon it; we are committed to rectifying the mistakes," he said.

## Court rules against Mahathir dam

MALAYSIA'S high court delivered an embarrassing rebuff to the government yesterday, ruling that a mammoth dam to be built in Sarawak, a pet project of the prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, breaks environmental law.

In a rare victory for Malaysia's environmental lobby, Judge James Foong said three plaintiffs, members of the tribes whose land will be flooded by the Bakun dam's reservoir, had a right to see environmental impact assessments of the project and to have

their views on it heard. The federal government had short-circuited this process by transferring the project to the jurisdiction of Sarawak state, where environmental rules are more relaxed and the state government, a major shareholder in the venture, sees no merit in public debate.

The 650ft high dam, which will cost about \$4 billion and be one of the biggest in Asia, has been dogged by controversy over plans to flood 270 square miles of tropical forest, an area the size of Singapore, and to force out more than

9,000 members of 15 forest tribes.

The immediate effect of the court decision should be to halt the Korean subcontractors who are already clearing forest round the site of the dam and diversion tunnels on the Rajang River, according to the plaintiffs' lawyer, Thayanan Muniandy.

The government should now convene a review panel to examine the environmental impact report, he says, a process that might take months. It should also submit the reports to public scrutiny

and comment, usually for 30-45 days.

It remains far from clear, however, how long the ruling will delay a project on which Dr Mahathir has staked so much prestige.

Lawyers for Ekran, the main Malaysian contractor, said they would appeal, but observers in Kuala Lumpur suggest the government may find quicker ways around it, particularly because of the damage a long delay would inflict on Malaysia's credibility with foreign investors.

Leader comment, page 8

## 'Secret' bullet factory sparks fears in Kenya

Belgians are joining the protests against a costly armaments plant in President Moi's heartland, writes Greg Barrow in Nairobi

THE citizens of Eldoret, a small town at the top of the Rift Valley, cannot believe their luck. Eldoret, once known only for its mushroom farming and world-class middle-distance athletes, has become Kenya's main beneficiary of government development money and industrial growth schemes.

The sleepy town of just over 100,000 residents already prides itself on having one of the best hospitals in Kenya, a university, a military barracks and a branch of the central bank. By December, Eldoret will also be home to Kenya's third international airport — and an armaments factory capable of producing 20 million bullets a year.

Why has Eldoret received so much government aid? Some Kenyans say the answer is simple. The town is situated deep in the heart of Kalenjin country, the tribal homeland of Kenya's president, Daniel arap Moi.

Debating societies in Moi University, on the outskirts of Eldoret, have shied away from discussing the government's generosity to their home town. But in the National

parliament the issue has become a hot topic.

Opposition parties which balked at the international airport are fuming about the armaments factory. It is estimated to cost somewhere between \$5 million and \$170 million, but the government has shrouded it in a veil of secrecy and refuses to discuss the financing arrangements.

Under normal circumstances, a cross-party defence committee should have examined the project, but it too has been kept in the dark.

Mr Moi says there is nothing sinister about the bullet factory, and claims it is a government project funded from the military budget. The subject has, however, raised concern in Belgium, home to the armaments manufacturer Fabrique Nationale Herstal, which is helping to build the Eldoret factory and supplying much of the machinery.

Some Belgian MPs have questioned whether it is wise for a Belgian company to support the factory in a country with a questionable human rights record. They also point to potential arms markets in neighbouring countries such

as Burundi, Somalia and Sudan — all embroiled in conflict.

The Belgian foreign minister, Erik Derycke, said: "It is not in accordance with current African policy, which is aimed at preventative diplomacy and conflict prevention."

The main opposition Ford-Kenya party has sent a protest letter to the Belgian government, and is considering lobbying European Union member states over Belgian involvement.

Opposition parties in Kenya are also concerned about the role the factory will play in domestic politics. Although there is little threat of Mr Moi's governing Kanu party losing elections due before the end of 1997, some politicians suggest that Eldoret, with its bullet factory, military barracks and airport, would provide a defensive enclave for the government in case of trouble.

"Given the history of the last elections in 1992, when there were land clashes and tribal flare-ups in the Rift Valley, we're very worried that there is a preparation for something," says Mr Otieno Kopeyo of the Ford-Kenya party. "Weapons manufactured at this new factory could be used against civilians, and that is the most pressing concern."



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**The beef war must end**  
A deal could be done to satisfy Blair and Major

BRITISH agonising over Europe is crowded with the ghosts of decisive battles that never quite took place. In this often frenzied business, in which high noon comes several times a day, compromise is always far more common than outright conflict. Wise observers therefore rightly apply a healthy discount to warlike pre-Euro Summit posturing. Even — or perhaps especially — this time. No one can say for certain that two days in Florence will make or break the Government's handling of the beef crisis, let alone define the future of Britain's relationship with the European Union. But there can be no doubt that the meeting which begins in Tuscany tomorrow will be one of the pivotal Euro-gatherings of the 1990s, especially from a British perspective.

Something has happened to all the huffing and the puffing of the past few weeks. Perhaps footballing success has made Europe seem fun once again. But, whatever the reason, the emphasis is all of a sudden on jaw-jaw not war-war. The striking feature of yesterday's preference positioning was the evident desire both here and in the rest of Europe that a deal should actually be struck this weekend. That mood is particularly worth recording, because it is in such marked contrast to the diplomatic and backbench sabre-rattling of late May. Even a week ago, it was very different and the speculation apocalyptic. At that time, the suggestion that a further 87,000 older cattle should be slaughtered at the stroke of a pen in order to save Helmut Kohl's honour would have provoked tabloid outrage and Eurosceptic wrath. Yet the belligerent British mood which so alarmed other Europeans when it burst out a month ago seems, thankfully, to be ebbing. When that bit of the deal emerged yesterday it seemed to pass surprisingly tamely into the public

arena. European politicians are natural dealmakers and, as Florence nears, the force of Britain's national interest in Europe has simply overwhelmed the rejectionist fantasies which were ignited when the non-cooperation strategy was unveiled a month ago.

This is not to say that a compromise over beef is inevitable this weekend. Britain cannot simply walk away from Florence and pretend that the campaign against the beef export ban was not intended seriously. So John Major will have to be able to claim his victory, and Labour (and the hard-core Tory Eurosceptics) will just as certainly denounce it as a sell-out. Nevertheless, the national interest demands such a deal and the broader European reality is better expressed by the pragmatic speeches which both John Major and Tony Blair have made this week than by tabloid little-Englandism.

The two party leaders approach the European issue from contrasting cultures, and generalised idealism is always easier in opposition than in government, but the overlap between their respective addresses in London and Bonn is very striking. Both see Europe in a changed post-Cold War context, emphasising the increasingly Asian-dominated global context of Europe's future agenda. Both are cautious about the devilish but profound complexities of the Maastricht project. Both are participants rather than boycotters. And both recognise (though with varying degrees of pleasure) the inevitability of European institutional reform in pursuit of the wider post-communist European framework in which Britain must inevitably be involved. The easy simplicities of outright rejectionism, or of equally outright federalism, are not on offer in the real world. Nor is a continuation of the beef war. A deal must be struck in Florence. Normal service needs to be resumed.

**Lies, statistics and dam lies**

There is a solution to the Bakun dam: build smaller ones

THE BIG DAMMERS have suffered a rare setback in Malaysia where the massive Bakun project, vehemently backed by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, has been blocked in the high court. The government had sought to bypass environmental regulations by transferring the project from federal jurisdiction to the state of Sarawak, where the chief minister is another ardent supporter. Now the Malaysian high court has found in favour of three tribal residents whose views were not heard, ruling that Sarawak's environmental assessment should not have been kept secret.

The Bakun project will stem the Rajang river in Sarawak with a 200-metre high dam, generating 2,400 megawatts of power of which more than half will be transmitted via undersea cables to peninsular Malaysia. It will flood an area the size of Singapore, force several thousand tribal residents to be relocated, and destroy a significant area of rainforest. It raises familiar issues which have surrounded a series of big dam projects from Aswan onwards: the difference between then and now is that we know much more about what can go amiss. Its promoters ask what is possibly wrong with promoting "clean" power generation and lessening reliance on fossil fuels. (That was the argument too for the Pergau dam, several times smaller than Bakun but also vulnerable on environmental grounds). Experience shows that big dams are particularly prone to siltation which

limits their life — in this case perhaps to no more than 50 years — and there is also a risk of seismic shock. The effects of high-volume discharge downstream can be devastating. There is likely to be a significant power loss over long transmission lines — those proposed here would be the longest in the world.

Harder to measure is the damage to untouched habitat and the quality of life of indigenous people whose voices would remain unheard if their cause had not been adopted by campaigning bodies such as Friends of the Earth. The plan is to resettle them into plantations where they will shift from subsistence farming to grow cash crops. Yet they are the people who have not been consulted and who do not wish to go.

When the BBC criticised the Bakun dam project in a documentary last year, Mr Mahathir said that it was "congenitally incapable of telling the truth." His own view on the truth of this matter has been subject to revision. The project was shelved for a while in 1990: Mr Mahathir said that this was "proof that Malaysia cared about the environment." Now he appears to care more about grandiose claims to turn Malaysia into South-east Asia's industrial powerhouse by the year 2020. There is a solution — and it was contemplated officially in 1990. That is to build a number of smaller dams in a stepped system which will be safer and cheaper. Monster dams have more political sex appeal but they may also have monstrous results.

**English football flying high**

Don't bother to analyse: sit back and enjoy it while it lasts

LET THERE be no doubt. It has exploded into the largest, most contagious shared experience in recent memory. England's unexpectedly artistic 4-1 win over Holland — a week after the last "England ace back on booze" headline — confounded everyone and ushered in a period of national uplift which will last... at least until Saturday when England play Spain. There's the rub. England are defiantly on a roll — but a roll can easily descend into a roller coaster. In recent weeks the England team has savoured the highs (wins in friendly games) then the lows (Hong Kong nightclubs and drunken scenes on an aircraft for which no one admits responsibility). Now that they are passing the ball again instead of the buck, the nation rejoices and the tabloids — whose loyalty often makes 90 minutes seem a long time — are again salivating with superlatives. They are right.

Sensing a metaphor for an overnight revival of the fortunes of the Conservatives — was quick to send congratulations to Terry Venables, England's coach. Curiously, he didn't send a similar message to Scotland after their plucky 1-0 win over Switzerland. Maybe at a time of nationalistic bonding, he momentarily forgot that he is also prime minister of Scotland. Let it be. This is no time for carping, but for unashamedly enjoying a moment of uncomplicated fun. Just why a game played by 11 men, dispatched via a cathode ray tube can produce such joyous uplift and touch parts of the psyche that no politician could ever reach, is a puzzle. Even the most ardent pro-European couldn't imagine an all-Europe football team attracting such loyalty. But let's not get philosophical. It's only a game: let's just admit that England made fools of us all and sit back and enjoy it for as long as it lasts.



**Letters to the Editor**

**Firing back at the IRA**

LET'S GET it straight about the IRA. They represent no one: not Ireland, not Irish people, and not any people. They would claim to be socialists, yet they bombed a city which has been devastated by recession, whose ordinary people are struggling to get up off their knees.

Like most Irish people, I know my history. I regard Ireland as my violated and wounded mother, who has experienced hundreds of years of oppression and the kind of devastation which is an inevitable part of colonisation.

Living in England, I experience prejudice and discrimination, which permeates every facet of my life. Nevertheless, I feel closer to working people in this country — of whatever race, nationality, or ethnicity — than I do to a bunch of people of the same nationality as myself, who are locked into some awful macho code of practice, and who are sufficiently disconnected from other human beings to plant a bomb which is likely to kill or maim them.

Being Irish in this country during an IRA campaign brings an almost unbearable anguish. We feel grief for bomb victims and grief for the fact that Irish people will experience backlash. Our grief is rejected, our empathy is seen

as fraudulent, our sympathies are suspected to be "with the boys". We are described as "Irish bastards". Yet, due to economic and historical factors, we cannot even live in the country which the IRA would claim to love so much and to be fighting to re-unite. Orlagh O'Shea, London N11.

THE suggestion of your leader (Violence beyond belief, June 17) that Bill Clinton and the people who voted for Sinn Fein have been let down by Gerry Adams is absurd. The people who put their necks on the line for peace have been Adams, Martin McGuinness and the Sinn Fein leadership, and it is they who have been let down and left with nowhere to go. Paul Donovan, London E11.

MAY I suggest a new, non-violent and democratic way to approach the continuing IRA/Sinn Fein issue? Would it not be possible for those who have suffered from their actions to sue the organisations and their leaders for damages in the courts of the UK, Eire and Europe, and those that pay for them in the US courts? Anthony Arnold, Church Street, Bramcote, Nottingham NG9.

CONSIDERING that most of the Manchester injuries were caused by flying glass, could shops not fit a device on windows to prevent glass flying out in the event of an explosion? Devices of this type were fitted during the second world war and were effective in preventing serious injury during air raids. William Benton, Alcroft Road, Birmingham 11.

LET'S have a referendum of the whole of Ireland, asking "Do you want a United Ireland?" the result being binding for ever. If the vote is for union, any inhabitant of Northern Ireland not wishing to stay should be resettled in mainland Britain. If the vote is against union, however, it must surely silence IRA/Sinn Fein for ever. Michael Evers, Broadwalk, London SE5.

ENOUGH is surely enough. Let's accept a noble defeat. It's happened before — from the Normandy invasion and Dunkirk to Suez and lots more. Those who must could bring their heads in shame. The rest of us could go shopping at the weekend without risking death. Ken Agar, Shepherd's Lane, Colston Raleigh, Devon EX10.



**Further scenes from village life**

FOR the past 36 years, Unitarians have been providing holidays at the village of Great Hucklow, in the Derbyshire Peak District, for needy and handicapped children who would otherwise not have a holiday. May I assure the residents of Turville (Letters, June 19) that there is no problem with the children as long as they have good helpers.

I do congratulate Mr Paxman on getting a grant from the Lottery. My fund sends about 200 children for a holiday each year. For the second time, the Lottery has refused to give me a grant to add two further groups to the existing number. This would require

£5,000 per annum for three years. (Rev) Peter B Godfrey, Hon Secretary, Sendal Child-Hucklow Fund, 13 Bradford Drive, Ewell, Epsom KT19 0AQ.

TURVILLE, or Dibley, has endured far worse threats than that posed by a dozen East End children. In 1942, as Bramley End in the film *West The Day Well*, it was visited by German paratroops. Before their occupation ended they had bayoneted the post-mistress and shot the vicar. Nigel Linford, 12 Windermere Court, East Drive, Brighton BN2 2BU.

**Life's a risk**

WE expect critical coverage in the Guardian of the nuclear industry and British Electricity's privatisation. The documents you report on (Vital safety information omitted from the pathfinder prospectus, June 18) are part of an exhaustive process which ensures that all such issues are indeed covered, as you would expect in a business which, quite unequivocally, has safety as its top priority. What neither we nor your readers expect is for the Guardian itself to manufacture an issue where none exists. You state that a quarter of Nuclear Electric's present staff are on contract. We expected to die from concern. This is exactly in line with expectations: one in four people in the UK will unfortunately die from naturally occurring cancers. Indeed, the nuclear-generating industry has average cancer rates 16 per cent lower than the UK national "healthy worker syndrome". (Dr) Robert Hawley, Chief executive, British Energy, 123 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EA.

**Not a lot of MP for your money**

A "PROFESSIONAL" legislature for a knock-down 30 per cent pay rise (Commentary, June 18)? In your dreams, Hugo Young.

Being an MP is far better than having to work for a living (probably bettered only by being on the board of a privatised monopoly). And since the majority of seats are general-election-safe, and thus in the gift of local party bosses, the only hard part is getting nominated (witness worried Tories chicken-running). A 30 per cent rise would mean 30 per cent dearer line-toting all round, a 30 per cent higher opportunity cost of stepping out of line and a 30 per cent increase in patronage charges. Short of radical reform, there's little supply-side tinkering that's going to have any improving effect on the quality of the legislature. A good start would be fixed-term parliaments and realistic limits on MPs' time-serving. John Smith, 22 Garden Walk, Beighton, Sheffield S19 6GA.

ACCORDING to Hugo Young, if MPs were paid more they wouldn't have voted for the poll tax. Is he arguing that if MPs were better paid they would be a better calibre of professional MP, more able to imagine the effect the poll tax had on the poor? Likewise, might they better imagine the plight of the low paid, unemployed and other millions struggling to make ends meet, and legislate accordingly? Ted Watson, 289 Ditchling Road, Brighton BN1 6JH.

There is a national 24-hour postal strike from midnight tonight. But we are confident that our readers will use technology, and ingenuity, to communicate with us as usual. To avoid delays, please use our fax number (0171 837 4530), or the letters-page, e-mail address, which is: letters@guardian.co.uk

**Pluses and minuses on the European balance sheet**

JOHN GRAY makes a furious attack upon those Tories who dare consider the possibility of a UK exit from the EU (Castaway UK, June 18). But such a move, if it is caused by political concerns about an over-growing centralism in Brussels, might trigger a snowball development among other former EFTA-states. Sympathy among them for the EU has always been due more to the economic interests of its exporting industries than through love for the super-state ambitions of Brussels Eurocrats and some continental politicians.

A recent poll in Sweden of 9,400 people showed that 60.4 per cent would today vote against Swedish membership of the EU and only 16.3 per cent in favour. One reason is the plan for a single currency, another the tendencies to bring about a fusion of the EU and the WEU, a third the efforts by some to turn international police co-operation into a super-national EU-FBI — all highly political issues, which would change the people's ability to manage their own affairs. Even the very pro-EU majority of the Swedish Parliament recently stated that the EU shall develop "as an association of independent states".

Are we supposed to let things go on just because we are afraid to be labelled as Eurosceptics? A possible UK exit in order to save some democratic sovereignty will certainly be followed not only by Sweden but probably by the rest of Scandinavia and perhaps some other newcomers too. It would, of course, stop the enlargement to the East and force Europe to find a way of co-operating that is not dictated by outdated

French and German politicians with superpower dreams. Per Gahrton MEP, (Greens, Sweden), European Parliament, Strasbourg, France.

JOHN GRAY misses one crucial point. Fighting within the Conservative Party over Europe is already damaging our business links with Europe. British business has to cope with a perception in Europe of a question mark over our commitment to the EU. A recent survey by the Institute of Managers found that 63 per cent of British managers believe that Conservative disagreements over Europe are harming our economic interest within the EU. David-John Collins, The Butchers, Station Road, Groombridge, Kent TN3 9QX.

PATRICK Minford's balance sheet (Stay in Europe — for now, June 14) on Britain's membership of the EU seems in heavy deficit on the "for membership" side. He omits Europe-wide consumer rights, particularly in health and safety; large amounts of inward investment into poorer regions of Britain; enforcement of common rules (eg Italy has been forced to repeal laws prohibiting the sale of Jaguar cars); 210 European Information Centres, supporting small firms; leverage in WTO negotiations which has led to a beneficial Gatt deal estimated to be worth £500 for every UK family; crucially, large numbers of British jobs provided by our membership of the EU, to which we supply over 50 per cent of our exports. Robert Watson, 16 Riddy Lane, Luton, Beds LU5 2AG.

**It may be them, it isn't us**

YOUR report (Lottery to give aid agencies £25 million, June 17) suggests that Christian Aid is one of the charities eager to apply for Lottery funds. In fact, we have said quite firmly that we won't take money from the Lottery.

In doing so, we reflect the wishes of most of the churches in the UK. In general, their views coincide with those of Professor Tim Congdon, one of the Treasury's own independent advisers, who said recently that the national gamble, described as "a bit of fun" by the Heritage Secretary, "constitutes disguised taxation, redistributes from the

poor to the rich, undermines savings and trivialises the state". I am all for Lottery funds being devoted to two seas aid. Seven per cent is a rather modest proportion given that overseas-aid agencies attract 15 per cent of the money given to charity by the public. A doubling of the £25 million pot would not be inappropriate if the self-styled "people's lottery" is to reflect where the sympathies of the people lie. But Christian Aid will not be joining the queue for a pay-out. Robert Watson, 16 Riddy Lane, Luton, Beds LU5 2AG. Director, Christian Aid, PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT.

**A Country Diary**

SPEY BAY: The osprey moved slowly across the entrance to the River Spey and half hovered over the sea, looking down for fish and causing slight panic amongst the waders and gulls. At one stage it seemed as though it had seen a fish, as the bird dropped for about 20 feet, but then it seemed to change its mind and moved back into the estuary and continued fishing. Suddenly, it dropped and struck the water with an audible splash and then, wings beating the water, it became airborne with a fish in its talons, although it was quite small. The bird was mobbed by a herring gull as it rose higher and higher, but the gull was ignored as the osprey moved purposefully to the south-east, presumably to waiting chicks in the nest. On the far side of the river was a group of about 50 goshawks, including adult males, and through the telescope I could see the pink tinge to their white body feathers. Whenever I see these sawbills it makes me sad to think that

the Government in the last few years have issued licences to fisheries boards to kill hundreds of these birds annually. This is based on the belief that they have a serious adverse effect on fishing interests, despite the fact that even the Government's own research has not proven this. The telescope also revealed a flock of about 40 eiders and, here again, I thought of the licences issued in the last two years to shoot some of these birds, as they were taking West Coast from a farm on the west coast of the Highlands. As I watched, there was a regular movement of terns passing the headland on relatively large sandwich terns, others the much smaller, little terns and others flew close enough for me to identify both Arctic and common terns. Well might they be called sea swallows as they did look like overgrown versions of the two swallows that were hawking nearby. RAY COLLIER

Handwritten signature: J.P. Minford



Diary  
Matthew Norman

In celebration of the... the Diary is currently... pass on the tale... doing the rounds both in Hong Kong and London about Cathay Pacific flight CX251 (the one for which the darling boys took "collective responsibility").

In preparation for Saturday's match with Spain, the... the special Euro 96 Book of the Week is Biggles in Spain, by Captain WE John (republished by Red Fox).

A JUDGE in Visalia, California, has passed sentence upon a man convicted of stealing two six-packs of beer. Rather than send him down for four years, the judge has ordered him to wear a t-shirt every day for one year.

SPELLING problems also afflict a prestigious EU body called "The Executive Committee of the International European Movement" which is holding discussions on the beef crisis.

A COURT in Hong Kong has convicted Sham Kwok-keung, a former policeman, of "unlawful sex acts by false pretences".



# Visionary versus the desiccated calculator

Commentary  
Hugo Young

THE two persons of Tony Blair — the visionary and the calculator — have never been on such open view as they now are over Europe. The visionary makes a speech of impeccable sanity, defining with courage and coherence a position unrecognisable in the tortured ambiguities of the present regime.

So far, a case can just about be made for Mr Blair's tactics. For a time, the ascendancy of the politician over the party has been a thing most British pro-Europeans and all continental politicians will understand. He criticises the Government in general, but not always in

particular. He attacks the handling of the beef scandal from day one, but not precisely on days 20 or 30 or 40 when, he suggests, the Government may have been acting for higher purposes which all good Brits should rally round.

This leads Mr Blair to make some extravagant statements. "No one has been more critical of our Government's handling of this crisis than the Labour Party," he told his audience in Bonn. I can think of six newspapers, a dozen columnists, one political party and scores of Tory MPs of different persuasions whose words have been less constrained than those of a palpably agonised Labour leader.

Some Tories, and some papers, perhaps desiring to see Mr Blair as a man in thrall to the power of their own phobias, seem to think he was equivocating. They regard as just as great, could be the start of a return to normality. These were being denounced by the Tory ultras before they'd begun to come out. The ultras, as part of their longer game, would prefer no deal to almost any deal.

nourish the conceit that Labour is as divided, and especially as obsessed with the sovereignty mirage, as they are. These are both delusions. Anyone who desires to restore some pride in country, and begin to wipe out the sheer embarrassment of being British in these months of diplomatic farce, will see a Labour victory, bringing cool reason to the Europe stance, as a minimum necessity.

There's no gutter in which these Tories, dancing to the tune of four editors, aren't happy to cover themselves with slime

regard as just as great, could be the start of a return to normality. These were being denounced by the Tory ultras before they'd begun to come out. The ultras, as part of their longer game, would prefer no deal to almost any deal.

Will Labour join them? Yesterday Robin Cook seemed to say so. Like them, he thinks the absence of a fixed timetable fatally flaws

the framework. But unlike them, he wants the European Union to continue as an effective, expanding agent of political and economic policy, in which Britain plays a central role.

But what does this mean now? The challenge is becoming acute. There's a decent possibility that Mr Major, in alliance with the Brussels Commission, will get a beef deal. He is surrendering some ground, over culling and exports, but a pragmatic sequence of actions and responses is on the table which, if the Germans are prepared to make concessions they

There's no gutter in which these Tories, dancing to the tune of four editors, aren't happy to cover themselves with slime

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Will Labour join them? Yesterday Robin Cook seemed to say so. Like them, he thinks the absence of a fixed timetable fatally flaws

# Why the police provoke crowds



George Monbiot

ONE year ago tomorrow, King Arthur Uther Pendragon was arrested at Stonehenge for trespassing assembly. He was caught on his way to the stones with 27 other people — seven more than you need to qualify for the Criminal Justice Act's attention. In court, however, he was able to demonstrate that the group consisted of a few druids, a German TV crew, three legal observers and a couple of drunken Italians, staggering along the road. The "assembly", in other words, was not an assembly at all.

Gustave Le Bon's The Crowd: A Study of the Popular Mind, published in 1895, is possibly the most influential work of psychology ever written. When people assemble in crowds, Le Bon opined, they descend to a primitive racial unconscious, losing their individuality and becoming impulsive, irrational and senselessly violent.

crowd against them. they must subtly contain the violent minority without alienating the peaceful majority. It is hard to believe that the police are not aware of this — after all, they have more experience of demonstrations than anyone else. Yet, in the two biggest protests of the last seven years, they have done exactly the opposite. During the London poll-tax demonstration, police horses charged into crowds in which a violent minority was scattered among people trying to get home.

In both cases, the police compressed the crowd both physically and psychologically. They forced peaceful protesters to make common cause with violent protesters, turning minor skirmishes into a full-scale battle. Similar events, on a smaller scale, have taken place over the last three years in Hackney, Watford, Islington, Oxford and Bradford. At Marsh Farm in Luton, riot police were sent in just as the demonstrators were calming down, with the result that a small disturbance became a furious three-day rampage.

So let us turn the psychologists' question around. Why do crowds of police behave in this way? Is it some atavistic reversion to a racial unconscious? Are they descending the evolutionary ladder towards the chimpanzee or the marmoset? The answer, of course, is no. It's clear that junior officers are often ill-prepared to understand and respond to a crowd. They are taught all the police manual has to teach and go out of their way to provoke it. You don't have to dig far to see what they might have to gain.

Somebody in the Labour Party has to speak what its leaders consider publicly unspeakable, argues Eric Hobsbawm, who hereby volunteers his services

# If the truth be told

A WIDE gap now separates the politicians of the British Labour Party from the intellectuals of the left, whose general reaction to Tony Blair's campaign is to stuff their ears and grit their teeth as they hope for a Labour victory.

The gap is not due to any basic disagreement about the party's political stance. Except for a few paleolithic sectarian survivals, everyone agrees that the future of the European left lies in central-left governments finding a viable mix of private and public interests, if anything left intellectuals are keener on an alliance, perhaps a coalition, with the Liberal Democrats which would demonstrate the permanent minority status of the Tories, for it was a minority even in the Thatcher era.

Capitalism, in turn, can exist only if it is structured, organised, shaped, justified, legitimised, and hence restrained by the interplay of different ideologies. In coexistence with West European socialism (and socialist anti-Hayekian ideologies) it became civilised for a while: less hierarchical than in the Far East, less ruthlessly individualist than in the US.

What separates Labour's intellectuals from its political operators, who would probably agree in private with Sassoon's book, is they found time to read it, is the sheer amount of self-censorship and non-truth-telling which is imposed on any party believed capable of winning a general election. But refusing to say the electorally inconvenient, which is just a step away from refusing to think the electorally inconvenient, cannot be an adequate guide for taking charge of the destinies of a country.



Today the semi-detached but loyal intellectuals of the left are more keenly aware than official party spokesmen that people and politicians have parted company

tively, someone has to "make the case for redistributive taxation to achieve public purpose and relieve the growth of poverty", as the Lib-Dems do, and, with luck, if there is a coalition government after the next election, "at least one part will have won a mandate for higher taxation and a more activist approach to economic management".

Someone has to say that "the unleashing of market forces as a solution to mass unemployment" is today "a monument to human folly" (Sassoon, page 466). Marxism grows, as David Marquand reminds us, is not maximum wellbeing. When the Emperor is naked, someone has to say so. The problem facing labour is twofold. First, it faces a genuine difficulty, insofar as the globalisation of the world economy has undermined the power of national governments, and especially of social-democratic governments, to ensure their citizens' welfare.

stances the policies which worked so well in the golden mid-century decades of cohabitation between regulated capitalism and social democracy broke down and cannot be restored. In a lucid chapter on "neo-revisionism", Sassoon shows how this has pushed all left parties from Finland in the north to D'Alema's Italian ex-communists in the south in the same direction as Tony Blair, with more or less reluctance. What is worse, he holds, probably correctly, that the European Union's essentially neoliberal Maastricht principle, which sees the fight against inflation as the primary task of government, has tied their hands even more tightly. It is therefore undeniable

that the left must fall back on pragmatic policies. It has no obvious and specific agenda. But the problem of finding new solutions is obscured by two decades and four elections that have knocked the intellectual stuffing and the political confidence out of Labour's left wing. For the first time in memory a Labour election campaign is run not on the principle of offering the British people an alternative to the Government — a disastrous and visibly bankrupt regime, as it happens — but behind the defensive ramparts of the slogan: "We are not what the Tories say we are."

This will, one hopes, be a way of avoiding a fifth election defeat, but it is no way to reverse the long-term decline which must either fail the country or do things which its leaders dare not admit in public before the election. Someone has to talk about the publicly unspeakable other way round: shall really talk ourselves into the belief that states must abdicate before the market, or that a country considerably richer than in 1970 cannot afford what it owes to its pensioners 25 years ago.

Someone must look at the problems we face without immediately thinking of tomorrow's polls. In short, in political situations which care not speak their names, there is a role for non-elected and disavowable, if troublesome, Labour intellectuals who can and must.

Parties which confidently look forward to victory in the next general election fail to make it (Spain, the Czech Republic, Israel). Parties resigned to defeat are pleasantly surprised by the unexpected strength of their support (France).

Today the semi-detached but loyal intellectuals of the left are more keenly aware than official party spokesmen that "people and politicians have parted company". Our "tense, mistrustful, anxiety-haunted society" (David Marquand) finds no adequate political expression. That is why so many of us cannot get rid of the fear that, whatever polls and probability, we could just lose. The enormous negative rating of the Government is not matched by a corresponding positive enthusiasm for the Opposition.

One Hundred Years Of Socialism: The West European Left In The Twentieth Century, by Donald Sassoon (Penguin, £25). Eric Hobsbawm's own books include Age Of Extremes: The Short Twentieth Century, 1914-91 (Michael Joseph). All rights reserved

Whenever the police are involved in violent conflict, they are prepared to use force and the Government. The bigger and more violent the confrontation is, the greater the plaudits. The suspicion that the police sometimes exacerbate crowd conflict in order to secure both funding and moral support is terrifying but not wholly implausible. Whipping up rational crowds into furious Le Bonian mobs justifies ever more confrontational policing. If authoritarianism were to arrive in Britain, this is how it would begin.

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10 OBITUARIES

Gesualdo Bufalino

Citizen of everywhere

THE LEAST probably known of modern European writers, Gesualdo Bufalino, who has died after a car accident at the age of 75, was also among the least known outside his native Sicily.

cause shadows of the past lie inescapably across every aspect of life in the island, and Bufalino, who defined his native land as "a difficult place, a paradise disguised as hell, a hell disguised as paradise", turned as naturally as Giuseppe Tommaseo di Lampedusa had done in *The Leopard* to the ambiguous world of the Risorgimento for the inspiration of a subsequent novel, *Le Menzogne della Notte* (*Night's Lies*) published in 1988.

Here he imagined the conversation, on the evening before they face execution, of a group of dissidents involved in the Bourbon government of King Ferdinand. Each of the quartet is recognisably located as a type within the period setting, whether as a soldier, a disaffected aristocrat, a student intellectual or a revolutionary poet, yet their discourse and interaction transcend anything as limiting as the label "historical novel".

Once again it was the vibrant beauty of Bufalino's style, underpinning the characters' passionate engagement with the smallest details of the existence they were about to leave behind, which won him critical acclaim. This time in the form of the Premio Strega, Italy's most coveted fiction award.

Not until he was 30, however, and established in his chosen profession as a teacher, did he begin to write, completing a first novel *Diceria dell'Untore*, which languished for more than 30 years before publication. Set in a military hospital and investigating the theme of mortality in a style of sonorous elegance, it placed him at once among the modern masters of Italian prose. It was later translated as *The Plague Sower*.

Sicilian writing has never had any trouble with absorbing and distilling material from the past, doubtless be-

late, having arrived so late, made little difference to the generally quiet tenor of his life as author and teacher. Other writings in translation gradually gained him admirers beyond Italy, especially the novel *Argo di cizio* (*Blind Argos*) the implicit paradox of whose title embodies the work's inherent playfulness, and a collection of stories, *L'uomo in mezzo*, translated as *The Keeper of Ruins*.

The latter offers an ideal display, both of Bufalino's versatility as a writer and of the subtle tones within his prismatic vision of the Sicilian backgrounds which nourished him.

There are affectionate parodies of medieval and Renaissance romance styles, clever stabs at urban realism, sly pastiches of Calvino's manner and sizzling glances at the world of the *zibicco*, the detective story which forms the basis of many Italians' sole encounter with the fictional genre.

Not for nothing in *L'uomo in mezzo* does Bufalino speak of another great novelist of contemporary Sicily, Leonardo Sciascia, whose friend he was and from whom he quite clearly absorbed much in terms of craftsmanship and narrative technique. Both men deplored the stagnation and corruption within Italy's political culture as much as they lamented the loss of cultural identity which rapid social and technological change seemed to threaten the immemorial rhythms of Sicilian life.

Half a century has been enough," wrote Bufalino in a rural essay in the Guardian's Writing Home series in 1992, "to distort the image of a rural civilisation, to degrade the dialect, to smear with the even gloss of modernity objects, ceremonies, clothes, customs and feelings."

Bufalino's work is not, to any self-conscious degree, a celebration of that Sicilian he always needed to acknowledge within himself. An inheritance from the sturdiest of Italian literature's regional strains is reflected instead in his intransigent independence of viewpoint and method as a novelist, and in the simple fact that, notwithstanding his debt to Sciascia and possibly also as a short story writer to Pirandello, he has no obvious beginnings except in the opunt, sometimes sinister, suggestiveness of his island landscape.



Gesualdo Bufalino, at home in Sicily, drawn for the Guardian by Tullio Pericoli

He emerges, within the compass of a small number of published works, as one of Italy's most accomplished writers, then it is worth recalling that he achieved that distinction by staying where he was.

He is survived by his wife Giovanna. Jonathan Keates Patrick Creagh, prizewinning translator of Bufalino into English, adds: I mourn for Gesualdo Bufalino because as a writer and as a man there was always nobody like him. Unbelievably learned and not a little quirky, he seemed to contain in himself almost every imaginable conflict and contradiction. A timid man but a fighter, a sad man but a funny one. But rather than attempting a description, I will let him speak for himself in a number of aphorisms. "My incompetence at living approaches the sublime." "This wretched luxury of being Sicilian." "I am an intransigent verb, don't expect me to be transitive." "We are hostages of one who raises the price of ransom every day. Know thyself, says the philosopher. I'd have to be mad!" "I am alive, I don't

deny it — but with mental reservations." "God is better than he seems, creation doesn't do him justice." "Happiness exists, I've heard it mentioned." Such quips as these scarcely plumb the depths of Bufalino but they may provide some key to the character of this outstandingly original author.

He had a strong faith in the value of the past, of memory, as a source of energy with which to face the future. With his own papers and manuscripts he had endowed an archive bearing his name. It occupied a building in the corner of a beautiful courtyard, and we strolled through the streets of Comiso in the hot sun of early afternoon to visit it. When we got there it was closed. The caretaker had locked up and gone to lunch. "Sciascia," said Bufalino with a smile. His article for the Guardian in which he expressed such faith in his kinder, gentler Sicily appeared two days before Judge Giovanni Falcone was blown up on the motorway near Palermo. Bufalino's work will resound for longer than the Mafia bombs.

Gesualdo Bufalino, novelist, born 1920; died June 14, 1996

smiles opposed to the canker of the Mafia. The Mafia, he wrote, "is not an invincible empire... and most Sicilians aspire to rid themselves of it." He repeated this when I met him later in 1992 in Comiso, which he rarely left after the death of his dear friend, Leonardo Sciascia.

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Gesualdo Bufalino, novelist, born 1920; died June 14, 1996

Sir Maitland Mackie

Spurred on to achievements at Balmoral

SIR MAITLAND Mackie, who has died aged 84, was Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire from 1975 until 1987. As a working farmer, he was an unusual choice for an office which normally goes to local aristocrats or to retired military men.

Possessed of a broad local accent and an amiable pride in his rustic roots, he brought fresh air to the arcane business of being the Queen's representative in north-east Scotland.

Quite what the Queen and other members of the Royal family made of him is an interesting speculation. When he first met the Queen Mother, he explained that he was wearing his fancy uniform for the first time and was worried lest he tripped over his spurs or got entangled with his sword.

HRH was solicitous, saying that if such a misfortune befell him he shouldn't worry about it too much; it had happened to her kinsman Lord Mountbatten only the previous week.

"Mike" — as he was universally called in his native county, to distinguish him from his father (also Maitland Mackie) did indeed lose his spurs on one occasion. So he asked the constabulary to follow him around at such events and retrieve spurs "or anything else that fell off."

A Lord Lieutenant's duties are mainly ceremonial, but were unusually onerous for Mackie, since his bailiwick contained the Royals' Balmoral Castle. His summer task was to greet them and look after them during their stay. This involved him and his Texan wife Pauline in the more annual Royal encounters than most Lord Lieutenants experience in a lifetime.

He recorded a good few of them in a delightful volume of memoirs, a book with an authenticity which exactly reflects the optimism which was his main characteristic. He called it *Lucky Chap* — and he genuinely believed himself lucky in spite of illnesses, frequent surgery and the early death of a beloved first wife, which left him with three children to bring up.

He had a full life. He was a highly efficient and successful dairy farmer near Inverury, twice the Liberal parliamentary candidate, a member of the Aberdeenshire County Council from 1961 to 1978, and its convener for eight years until it was subsumed in the new Grampian Region. His particular interest was education, supervising the building

of a vast number of new schools and ensuring that they all had either gymnasiums or swimming pools, or both.

But perhaps his most significant monument, and certainly the one which Scots would thank him for enthusiastically, is the liberalisation of Scotland's licensing laws. He was a leading member of the committee which recommended that the absurd 8.50 pm closing time, together with the bizarre rules about "bona fide travellers" and Sunday drinking, be replaced by all day opening. Milk in England — where a committee made similar recommendations which were not acted upon for a very long time — was the first to be replaced. Gordon Campbell, ex-acted them almost at once.

Mackie records a his book that when the committee's report was formally delivered to Campbell, the minister told reporters that he would consult the appropriate people about what to do. Mackie burst out: "Good God, what do you think we've been doing these past two years?" Campbell retorted:

Mackie was also deeply involved in the activities of the North-East Scotland Development Agency, and was an early dabbler in North Sea oil, as well as projects like cable television. But it was his interest in Charolais cattle which brought him the added bonus of a new wife, the met Pauline, a town cattle rancher with an authentic accent, during a visit to my animals in Texas. They made a remarkable pair, especially as there was some doubt at first about how the two of them could understand each other — or how the Queen understood either.

Though his parents were both Tories, one brother was a minister in the Wilson government and the other is Liberal Democrat peer, Mike sat as an independent on town council. But he remained a Liberal to the end.

Sir Maitland Mackie, farmer, born February 16, 1912; died June 18, 1996

Death Notices

WIDOW, Mrs. M. M. Mackie, nee Mackie, who died on June 18, 1996, aged 78. Dearly loved husband, Sir Maitland Mackie, died June 18, 1996. Funeral service for family and friends at St. Andrew's Church, Woodlands Road, Collieston, Wednesday, June 20, 1996, at 2.00 pm. Memorial service at 11.00 am on Friday, June 22, 1996. Contributions for The British Youth Foundation may be sent to Rev. Mrs. Mackie, 19 St. Andrew's Church, Woodlands Road, Collieston, West Dunbartonshire, G12 8JL. Telephone 01882 371159.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ENGAGEMENTS

Vivian Ellis Spread a little happiness



Vivian Ellis... 50 years of pop hits

VIVIAN ELLIS, who has died aged 91, combined a fluent talent for bitter-sweet melody with a sharp business brain. The urbane composer of songs like *Spread a Little Happiness* and *She's My Lovely* dominated the popular music industry for 50 years.

His mother played the violin, and an uncle, a musician, turned her ear for music. When his father collapsed at their Margate middle-class home and died. At prep school, "the unhappiest time of his life", he had little interest in other schoolboy activities. Once, there was a Zeppelin raid on Margate when the pupils were swimming. Everyone else rushed ashore. Ellis rationally stayed in the sea "for safety".

At eight, he wrote a musical composition based on the sinking of the Titanic, replete with siren blasts and the crashing of waves. He went on to a scholarship to the Royal College of Music, but his mother had to turn it down because of shortage of funds. He was put to work in the family business in the City, which he detested, but escaped into the music busi-

ness by getting a job as a song plugger, reading up to 300 songs a week. He worked for Chappell's for 28 years. When, as a composer, he bargained with publishers on the other side of the fence, there was nothing he did not know.

His first musical, *Mr Cinders*, was put on with huge success in the West End when he was 24. There were to be 40 musicals in all, from Jack Hubert and Cecily Court-Johnson revues to Cochran shows, and the musicals written by AP Herbert, including *Streamline*, *Big Ben*, *Bless the Bride*, and *The Water Gipsies*. He wrote both music and lyrics for *The Town Talks*, *Going Places*, *Hide and Seek*, *The Fleet's Lit Up*, and others.

He served throughout the war in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, retiring with the rank of lieutenant commander in 1945. His practical abilities were best known in the music industry through his long association with the Performing Right Society. He was its director from 1955, served as vice-president under Sir Arthur Bliss, Master of the King's Music, as president, and later assumed the presi-

deny. He also wrote humorous books (*How to Enjoy Your Operation*), books for children and two volumes of autobiography.

Some of his melodies have had a more lasting quality than many of the genre. *Spread a Little Happiness* was revived by Sting in 1993 for the film version of Dennis Potter's play, *Brinsford and Treacle*, in which Sting played the Devil, while a new production of *Mr Cinders* did well at the Fortune Theatre in 1983. His music stuck, too: he always claimed he had kept quite a lot of it.

He was unmarried and throughout his life he shared a home of contentment with his sister, Hermione. Since 1938 they had lived in a Somerset cottage where gardening was his great love. When he died he was working on three new songs for his 90th musical, *Listen to the Wind*.

Dennis Barker Peter Cotes writes: Vivian Ellis's songs were public, but his life was private. During all the years he was known to me I never once remember seeing him

smile. Perhaps he put all that bottled-up energy into making through his music and his lyrics, for he never wrote a piece about real sadness.

Almost from the start of his career his work was being accepted for West End shows. Interwar stars like Jack Hulbert, Bobby Howes, Binnie Hale, Frances Day, and Jill Fletch, former director, whistling errand boys made his songs national hits, tinkling their way into song sheets, and on to records by Jack Buchanan, Delysia, Maria Burke and John Mills. There were hit reviews and operettas with Sir Alan (AF) Herbert. The latter led writer and journalist Beverley Nichols to hail Ellis "a young genius... a composer who ranks with Lehár and Strauss."

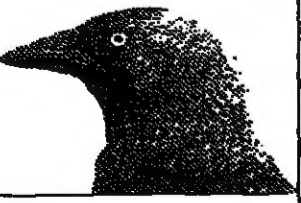
Songs like *This is My Lovely Day*, and *I'm on a Seesaw* did smile at life and gave their captivated audiences a feeling that it was good to be alive, well and living in this funny old world. Which, of course, it so very rarely happens to be.

Vivian Ellis, born October 29, 1904; died June 19, 1996

Birthday

Prof William Balchin, geographer, 80; Sir Brian Gardner, high commissioner to Australia, 62; Dame Catherine Cookson, novelist, 90; Lord Cranbrook, chairman, English Nature, 63; Olympia Dukakis, actress, 68; Brig Jill Fletch, former director, Army Nursing Services, 68; Stephen Frears, film director, 58; David French, convener, Family Law Bill Coalition, 49; Nicole Kidman, actress, 30; Allan Lamb, cricketer, 42; Cyndi Lauper, rock singer, 43; Sheila McLean, Prof of Law & Ethics in Medicine, Glasgow University, 45; Sir David Mitchell, Conservative MP, 68; Johnny Morris, broadcaster, 80; Sir Anthony Pilkington, chairman, Pilkington Glass, 61; Paul Ramirez, tennis player, 43; Peter Reid, football manager, 40; Vikram Seth, novelist, 44; Prof Sir Richard Southwood, zoologist, 65; Claire Tomalin, biographer, 63; John Taylor, rock singer, 36; The Rt Rev John Waite, former Bishop of Chelmsford, 66; Brian Wilson, rock singer, 55.

Jackdaw



don't wash my silks). Parenting — no, it doesn't end with conception. Get a life — learn how to cook. How not to act like an asshole when you are obviously wrong. Spelling — even you can get it right. Understanding your financial incompetence. You — the weaker sex. Reasons to give flowers. How to stay awake after sex. Why it is unacceptable to relieve yourself anywhere but the toilet. Garbage — getting it to the bin. Sex 101 — you can fall asleep without it if you really try. Sex 102 — the morning dilemma — if it's awake, take a shower. The weekend and sport are not synonymous. How to put the toilet seat down. How to go shopping with your mate and not get lost. The remote control — overcoming your dependency. Helpful postural hints for couch potatoes.

Life Lessons

SEMINARS FOR MEN Once again, the female staff will be offering courses to men of any marital status. Class size will be limited to 10 as course material may prove to be difficult. COURSE TITLES Combating stupidity. You too can do housework. PMS — Learning when to keep your mouth shut. How to fill an ice cube tray. We do not want sleazy underthings for Christmas. Understanding the female response to you coming in drunk at 4am. Wonderful laundry techniques (formerly known as

No God

YOU ask me if my notions about *En attendant Godot*, extracts from the famous broadcasting at the Club of Essex, and at the same time for my notions about dramatic art. I am not versed in it. I am not a theatre-goer. This is admis-

Cold turkey

THE following morning, he was dragged off for a non-random drugs test, then, a week later, appeared on adjudica-

Prospect: cold turkey cure

tion where he threw himself on the mercy of the governor and admitted still using heroin (thus saving the prison, inter alia, the cost of the expensive re-testing procedure). Yes, he still had a habit, but consumption had been cut by three-quarters, and progress was slowly but surely being made.

Engagements

There were complaints from other cons. The senior officer continued, "suppose you thought you were being clever pleadin' guilty? Well I've got a surprise for you. You're not getting away with it that easy. You're confined to your cell for 21 days. Let's see what a bit of cold turkey does for you."

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Retail

M

The C&G has agreed

Societies

ERM mark 2 second-best plan, says Lamfalussy

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer  
Telephone: 0171-239-9610  
Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

## Retail fall 'due to weather'

Larry Elliott  
Economics Editor

**M**AY's cold weather put the brakes on spending last month as shoppers shunned the new summer lines offered by clothing and footwear stores, the Government said yesterday.

Analysts said news that retail sales volumes dropped by 0.1 per cent between April and May should not be seen as support for Chancellor Kenneth Clarke's decision to cut base rates to 5.75 per cent earlier this month.

They added that anecdotal evidence for June suggested that clothing and footwear sales had been boosted by warmer weather and this was likely to be reflected next month. Data for March and April was also revised down, but the Treasury said that sales remained on "an upward trend".

He added that there was "still a complete absence of significant inflationary pressures and growth in the economy remained below trend".

Im Shepherdson, economist with HSBC, said that the strength of demand for household goods — up by 2 per cent over the latest quarter — reflected the recovery in the housing market.

May, retail sales volumes were 0.5 per cent higher than in the previous three months and 2 per cent up on the March to May period of 1995.

### Notebook

## After the end of the metal reign



Edited by Alex Brummer

**T**HE London Metal Exchange (LME) has been so disconcerted by the Sumitomo scandal that it had little alternative but to call in the Securities Investment Board (SIB) to review its trading practices.

go unchecked for 10 years, and why warnings in 1991, 1993 and finally 1995 — not to mention a volatile copper market — failed to alert participants. Fortunately, the story should not now be that long in coming out. Sumitomo helpfully is to open all its books to regulators, and presumably Mr Hamanaka will have the opportunity to talk to the CTC, SFA, SIB and anyone else who wants to be part of this.

## The C&G has agreed a £14m pay-out for home income plan victims. Teresa Hunter reports

### Elderly couple look for relief from mortgage nightmare

**F**ORMER post office worker Don Bryan, who suffers from a serious chest complaint, wanted only to afford a month in the sun each winter when he started a home income plan with the now-defunct Aylesbury Associates.



## Societies face multi-million pound claims

**N**INE leading building societies face multi-million pound claims from elderly homeowners after the Cheltenham & Gloucester yesterday agreed to pay up to £14 million for its role in the home income plan.

The C&G pledged a support package worth £7.5 million for more than 300 home income plan victims — although it denies any legal liability to help them. It will also pay a substantial sum to the Investors Compensation

Scheme (ICS) compensation which has already paid £8.3 million to C&G borrowers.

The advisers disappeared when the bonds crashed and property prices simultaneously collapsed. The pensioners were left with interest accruing on debts they had no means of servicing.

The ICS had issued writs against the C&G and West Bromwich societies, which it claimed had helped devise and sell the plans with the financial advisers. Legal action against C&G will now be cancelled following yesterday's settlement.

on additional help to those investors who were so badly let down by the financial advisers who sold them the plans.

## ERM mark 2 second-best plan, says Lamfalussy

Mark Miller  
European Business Editor

**A**REVAMPED European exchange rate mechanism would be unlikely to suffer the attacks from currency market speculators which virtually wrecked the original version, according to Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute.

## Santer raises stakes in trade spat with US over Cuba

Larry Elliott  
Economics Editor

**T**HE European Union and the United States were last night poised for a new trade conflict after Brussels warned of retaliation if European firms are hit by Washington's anti-Cuba sanctions.

## Hyder axes 900 as dividend rises

Chris Barrie  
Business Correspondent

**T**HE Welsh water and electricity company, Hyder, reignited controversy over job losses and profits in privatised utilities yesterday by announcing that it would axe 900 people, step up payments to shareholders and cut back investment in renewable energy projects.

Warning that Labour would impose a windfall tax if it came to power, he said: "The bosses at Welsh Water should be spending their time solving the problem of leakage instead of squeezing profits out of the consumer."

Cost-cutting already underway would be saving a further £54 million a year by the end of the decade, with 330 jobs going.

Hyder turned in pretax profits 6.2 per cent lower at £12.9 million, on turnover of £61.8 million. Stripping out exceptional items, profits rose 12.8 per cent to £17.9 million. The full-year dividend of 38.7p a share is 14.2 per cent higher.

## Railtrack signals cost-cutting plan

Keith Harper  
Transport Editor

**R**AILTRACK threatened yesterday to reduce jobs in a plan for cutting costs and raising efficiency that would allow it to raise dividend payments.

## Holistic Systems on a high as buy-out nets staff £54m

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**A**CCIDENTS do happen. A chance look at a newspaper advertisement in 1999 came good yesterday with a £54 million fortune for the founder and 32 of the staff of the private UK software company Holistic Systems.

had never even touched a computer. But that did not stop him joining the computer bureau. And yesterday, the US-owned Seagate Technology Inc paid the Manchester-born computer expert, £54 million for the buy-out. But according to Mr Taylor, it will benefit greatly from the backing of a Fortune 500 company.

| TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Australia 1.8650           | France 2.2675     |
| Austria 1.584              | Germany 2.2675    |
| Belgium 46.80              | Greece 382.75     |
| Canada 2.05                | Hong Kong 11.94   |
| Cyprus 0.6988              | India 51.98       |
| Denmark 8.77               | Ireland 0.9425    |
| Finland 7.08               | Israel 5.03       |
| Italy 2.321                | Singapore 6.52    |
| Malta 0.685                | South Africa 8.52 |
| Netherlands 2.5425         | Spain 191.50      |
| New Zealand 2.2150         | Sweden 10.05      |
| Norway 2.78                | Switzerland 1.48  |
| Portugal 204.02            | Turkey 118.228    |
| South Arabia 5.76          | USA 1.5075        |

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12 SPORTS NEWS

Golf Langer dreads nought

Michael Britton in Munich

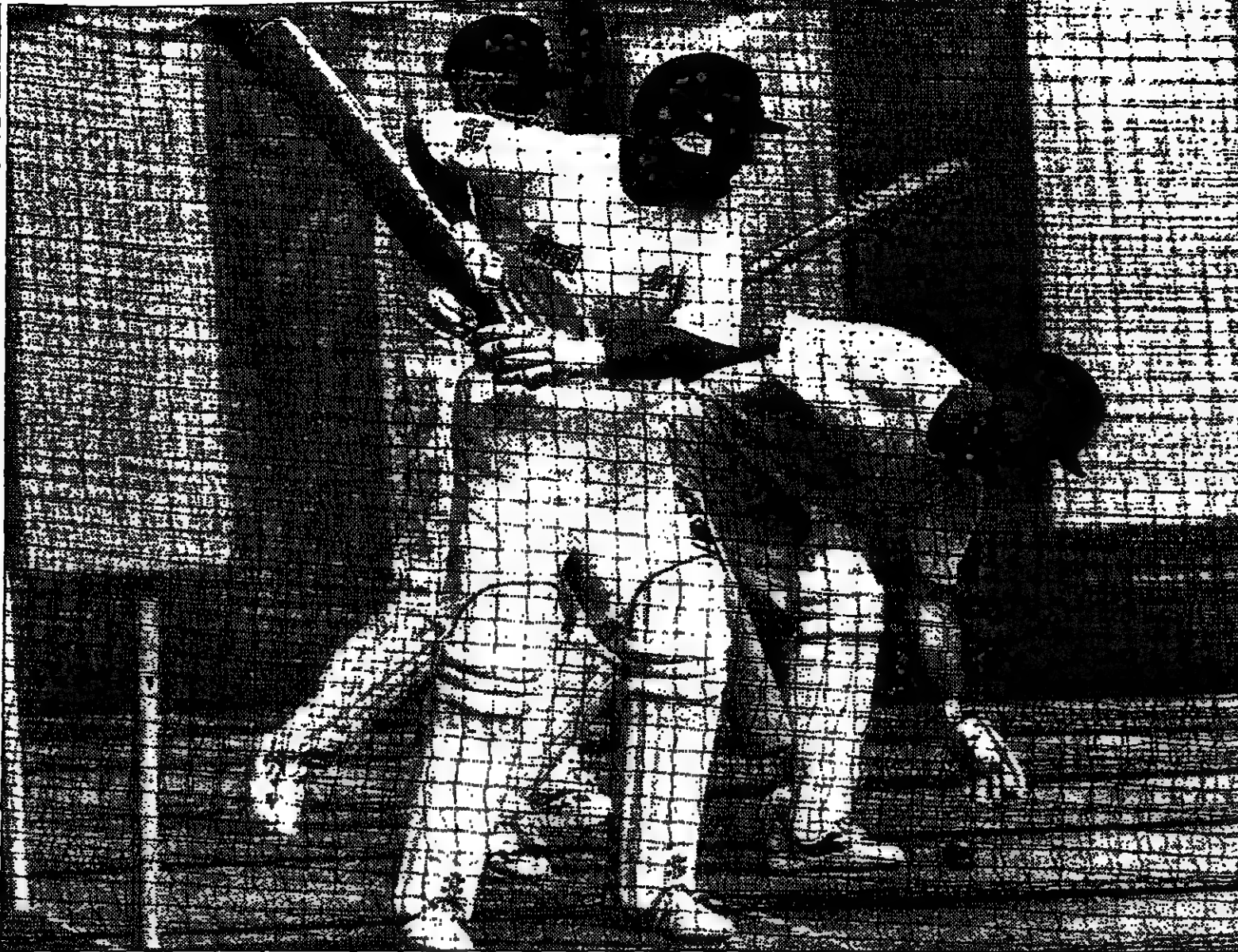
BERNHARD LANGER yesterday dismissed stories that he is on the verge of retirement because of poor form and the putting yips.

The German was in bullish mood on the eve of the BMW Open at the St Eura- ch club here in his native Bavaria despite having been disqualified for the first time in his career at last week's US Open.

Langer stressed that his weekend disgust was directed at the US Golf Association's presentation of Oakland Hills. "I am also a golf-course designer and constructor," he said, "and if I produced something like that people would say I was crazy. It is very possible that if I had a bad week it would be like that I will not play."

He also confirmed his intention to play in the forthcoming French Open as well as the Open Championship at Royal Lytham, where he suffered a notorious attack of the yips on his last visit.

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Net profits... England's Nasser Hussain (nearest camera) and Graham Thorpe (stooping) limber up at Lord's

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARNON

England aim to tap rich seam

Mike Selvey expects Atherton's men to inflict a second defeat on demoralised India in Dickie Bird's swansong Test at Lord's today

THE chairman of selectors was not in evidence at Lord's yesterday, presumably spending the time in a darkened room with a cold compress on his head in an attempt to stop his blood boiling.

For a man who would not part readily with £2,000 if his wife had been ransomed by Afghan tribesmen, the ridiculous fine levied by the Test and County Cricket Board on Tuesday injured more than his wallet.

At Lord's a year ago it was Raymond Illingworth doing the hurting when, at the 11th hour, he jettisoned the strategy agreed at the selection meeting. Exacerbating his right as overlord, he unilaterally told Steve Rhodes to pack his bags and instructed Alec Stewart as wicketkeeper instead.

It created the sort of furore usually reserved for England footballers in foreign drinking dens. But Illingworth survived England with a remarkable match against West

Indies and got him off the hook. Been there, done that, got the T-shirt, Tel. Today, in the season's showpiece Test, England have the chance to win here again and take the first two Tests of a summer for the first time since 1978. But unless the chairman goes critical overnight, blows a gasket and replaces Hick, Cork and Thorpe with Julian Gray, Laila and the News Bunnys, there are going to be shocks this morning despite the tempting presence of Stewart as replacement for the injured Nick Knight.

After an early inspection of a pristine pitch, the only debate was whether it is Peter Martin, omitted from the first Test, or Min Patel, the solitary specialist spinner, who should go this time. Mike Atherton is reluctant to go into a game without a spinner but said yesterday that there was little point in having one if he was there merely to defend. So the likeliest option, and the right one

given the lack of wickets for English spinners at Lord's, is a full battery of four seamers (five if Ronnie Irani is counted) with Graeme Hick to fill in if necessary. After their win at Edgbaston England will be looking to maintain the enthusiasm they showed there. So positive is David Lloyd that one feels he could fog defoggers to Linda McCartney, the team's success so far is due in no small measure to his bounceiness. But Atherton recognises the need to string together a series of good performances. "We must not step off the gas now," he said. "The Indians are down and we have to capitalise on that. Everyone is important."

He is right about the state of India's team. When the sides last met at Lord's six years ago England won by 247 runs but only because Graham Gooch had scored 398 and 123 not out, the most runs by a batsman in a single Test; Mohammad Azharuddin had

countered with one of the most sublime centuries seen on the ground and Kapil Dev had taken India one run past the follow-on by hitting Eddie Hemmings for four consecutive sixes. However, India are now in turmoil. Weakened before they arrived in England by the disciplinary action against Vinod Kambli, they were further undermined when Navot Sidhu, the only experienced opener in the party, packed his bat and went home after the one-day series. They are also suffering from inexperience and a lack of Test cricket. Their form on tour has been so bad that the heavy defeat by Derbyshire last week was their fifth. Asharuddin is a mild man but it was probably his trade in the dressing room which set off Mount Ruspehu in New Zealand. Whether it will be sufficient to rekindle the fire in his side is another matter. Besides the lack of form there are injuries, particularly those to Sundi Joshi, who has had to go home, Sanjay Manjrekar, who twisted an ankle while batting at Edgbaston, and Mohammad Azharuddin's hand courtesy

of his old county team-mate Devon Malcolm. The captain will probably struggle through; less certain is Manjrekar, and Rahul Dravid stands by. Nayn Mongis will open the batting and a decision will be taken this morning on whether to rely on three seamers and the spin of Kumble (a disappointment so far) or include Raju's left-arm spin as well. Whoever wins the toss will probably bat, not least because any early appeals to Dickie Bird will be rejected because he will be unable to see through his tears. There can be few unwary fans of Seles ground strokes. McGrath, who won the Edgbaston tournament last week, could certainly detect no signs of Seles holding back yesterday. McGrath has a good grass-court game but has hopes of getting to the net vanished under a barrage of Seles ground strokes. "Clearly I wasn't going to win from the baseline," said McGrath, who was in a near-constant state of hyperactivity as she was sent scurrying from one end of the baseline to the other. There was never the least doubt that Seles would win but in the Paris Open when she lost in the quarter-finals to Jana Novotna, there were mo-

Tennis

Seles finds little relief in victory

Stephen Bierley at Eastbourne on the American's constant pain

SUPERFICIALLY Monica Seles's first match on British grass for almost four years yesterday was a sea breeze. She beat her fellow American Meredith McGrath 6-2, 6-4 and left the Eastbourne centre court reverberating with applause.

There was a gentle wind off the Channel but no sea fret. There are, however, swirling mists of doubt in the mind of Seles, for the pain in her injured left shoulder is obviously nagging at her each and every day. "I feel pain all the time," she said after her win. "I wake up every day and it hurts, but this is a special year and special circumstances."

She needs an operation but is hoping to postpone it until after Wimbledon, the Olympics, the Fed Cup and the US Open. Whether that will be possible she cannot be sure, hence the doubts and uncertainties. She receives two hours of treatment daily but once on court is immediately aware there are certain shots that are going to hurt her. Only she knows the true extent of the pain; indeed, the psychological barrier of knowing she is not 100 per cent fit may be the most telling inhibition of all. McGrath, who won the Edgbaston tournament last week, could certainly detect no signs of Seles holding back yesterday. McGrath has a good grass-court game but has hopes of getting to the net vanished under a barrage of Seles ground strokes. "Clearly I wasn't going to win from the baseline," said McGrath, who was in a near-constant state of hyperactivity as she was sent scurrying from one end of the baseline to the other. There was never the least doubt that Seles would win but in the Paris Open when she lost in the quarter-finals to Jana Novotna, there were mo-

ments of drift and carelessness. "I won't be able to let this happen at Wimbledon," she said afterwards. The last time Seles played at Wimbledon was in 1992 when she lost to Steffi Graf in the final. "I don't like to be reminded of matches I lose, but I never felt I was in it."

The next year came the stabbing in Hamburg which wiped out Wimbledon Slam competition until the US Open last year. Then, in this year's Australian Open, came the first niggling problems with her shoulder. She won in Melbourne but in a subsequent tournament in Tokyo had to withdraw. The injury is a deep-rooted tear which principally limits all shots which require full rotation; she has added pace to her serve but cannot get the kick she feels she requires for Wimbledon success.

"I don't feel comfortable with my serve. It's not there." Neither is she happy with her current lapses in concentration. Essentially the match toughness is missing, not surprisingly given the relatively small number of matches she has played in recent times. McGrath believes Seles can win her first Wimbledon title. Seles refuses to commit herself. "I just hope it will be sunny, dampness would kill my shoulder." Overall victory here, on her first visit to Eastbourne, would increase her confidence wonderfully.

Chanda Rubin, seeded seventh at Wimbledon and a finalist here last year, withdrew yesterday after losing the first set 6-3 against her fellow American Liss Raymond. Rubin has been out of action for some time with tendonitis in her wrist, and believes she came back too quickly. "I hope to play next week but her chances of a successful Wimbledon look slim. The Eastbourne herring-gulls wailed their sympathy from the rooftops." Jennifer Capriati has pulled out of Wimbledon. The 20-year-old American, who failed to regain her hurtling career at the French Open, said yesterday that she did not feel ready to compete at Grand Slam level.

Petchey is now the third force

David Irvine at Nottingham

FOR far too long it was Jeremy Bates alone who carried the men's game in Britain. More recently the baton has been taken up by Greg Rusedski and Tim Hamman. And at the Nottingham Open yesterday Mark Petchey confidently announced himself as the new third man of the domestic game.

On what was arguably Britain's best day of tournament tennis since 1978, when Mark Cox, Richard Lewis, Andrew Jarrett and John Feaver - now the Nottingham tournament director - made the quarters at the British Hard Court Championship at Bournemouth. Hamman, Rusedski and Petchey all claimed quarter-final places. Petchey was the most impressive win. Hamman's was the most dramatic. In a fiercely fought contest with Michael Joyce he missed two set points in the first set, scrambled through in the second and finished in straight in the third with five aces to win 6-7, 7-5, 6-2. Petchey, buoyed by his recent win at Beckenham beat Australia's Patrick Rafter 6-3, 6-4, making light of the 165 places separating the two in the world rankings. "Ranking-wise I've had better wins (over Thomas Muster and Michael Stich was very ample) but this one was especially satisfying," Petchey said. "Pat is a very good grass-

court player." A quarter-finalist at Queen's last week, indeed, Petchey, who filled so disappointingly when deputising for Hamman in the Davis Cup recently, played with almost total authority. His serve, his return and his volleying were near-flawless. A bewildered Rafter could find no answer to Petchey's insistent game. A backhand winner in the fourth game after saving two break points in the tie put Petchey in the driving seat but the killer punch came at 1-1 in the second. The Briton slid an angled backhand across court and it appeared to be going out, but it clipped the net, hit Rafter's racket and fell on the Australian's side of the net. Petchey, who is due to marry soon, said he had developed a new attitude to his game. "I just want to play well and not worry too much about results. Winning at Beckenham (the first British men's championship for over 50 years) was a great confidence-booster."

Petchey now plays Sandon Stolle, son of the three-times former Wimbledon finalist Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka, against whom he holds a 2-0 lead in past meetings. Rusedski was much less convincing in taking revenge on Martin Damm, who deprived him of his Seoul title in April. Though he won 6-3, 7-6, his serve was often erratic and his ground game less than impressive.

Wood on fire at Roehampton

JANE WOOD, firing the pro circuit after a 10-year break, was Britain's only winner yesterday at Roehampton as all her compatriots lost their chance of qualifying for Wimbledon - including the 22-year-old Andrew Richardson, who impressed his new Ameri-

can coach Peter Fleming "tremendously" in going out to the Italian Mose Navarra in four tight sets. Wood, a 28-year-old Londoner, plays Romania's Catalina Cristea today for a place in the first round after beating Virginie Buisson of France 6-3, 6-2.

Q16: Pat Holland, Alan Brazill and Mike England are three of the four top footballers of the past 35 years whose surnames are also countries. Name the fourth.

A16: Joe Jordan

Q17: Which player scored nine goals in five games to lift the Henri Delaunay trophy for his country?

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County Championship: Somerset v Worcestershire

Another Illingworth profits as perseverance is rewarded and logic defied

David Foot at Bath

GOLD logic demanded that Somerset launch the Bath Festival with an orgy of runs that promised a remorseless 200-run no mercy to the bottom county.

Instead they were all out for 263, their last eight wickets going for a miserable 60 after the openers had put on 126. It was not a stroke-makers square but the pace barely changed and the tumble of wickets from 170 for one only emphasised that a golden opportunity as well as logic had been squandered.

Peter Bowler took five hours over his hundred. There were 17 fours, all well-struck, though he might have searched more diligently after the openers had put on 126. It was not a stroke-makers square but the pace barely changed and the tumble of wickets from 170 for one only emphasised that a golden opportunity as well as logic had been squandered.

over the top for four, against his nature, and was soon out. Maybe Somerset were mesmerised by the proximity of the croquet club. They crumbled finally in an untidy heap to Worcestershire five for 40 and Worcestershire perseverance.

Two of England's yesterday men, Robin Smith and John Emburey, shared the Bestshot limelight as Hampshire capitalised on winning the

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So tangled had the mess become that the "All Golds" side - which would scarcely have been representative of New Zealand's strength - would have been chosen by Australian selectors because the NZRL backs Super League. Bobbie Goulding, meanwhile, is back in the England

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Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes Somerset v Worcestershire, Lancashire v Warwickshire, etc.

Second XI Championship

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes Atherstone v Durham, etc.

Minor Counties

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes Wiltshire v Dorset, etc.

Other match

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, etc.

Renewing today

Table with 2 columns: Match, Score. Includes Cornwall v Devon, etc.

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Unfair advantage No, it's not fair - but somebody has to win two tickets to the Wimbledon Men's Final in this Sunday's Observer. Why shouldn't it be you?

Various advertisements including 'ALASCOT Trigger fire a double', 'Crane leads jockey', 'Alascot card', and 'Stratford (M.H.) to...'



ROYAL ASCOT

Trigger ready to fire a double gold

Ron Cox expects champion stayer to show the way home in today's marathon

DOUBLE TRIGGER, five lengths winner of last year's Gold Cup, can become the sixth dual winner of the top prize for stayers since 1980 when he lined up against six rivals at Royal Ascot today. Moonax, the runner-up in 1995, misses a re-match owing to the fast ground. Godolphin still provides the main danger in Classic Cliche, but the proven stamina of Double Trigger should be decisive over this two and a half miles — a distance six furlongs farther than Classic Cliche has attempted to date. Jason Weaver made all the running on Double Trigger here last year and will most certainly have to show the way again. Although he can appear to be in trouble in the early to middle stages of his races, Double Trigger responds

famely to Weaver's urging and he has come back at least as good as ever this season with wins at Ascot and Sandown, where he left Assessor and Court of Honour trailing. Court of Honour had finished much closer to Classic Cliche in the Yorkshire Cup, in which recent Italian winner Strategic Choice was second. It is impossible to say whether Classic Cliche will be as effective over this marathon trip, but he will need to stay every yard if he is to get past Double Trigger (3.45). Nononito finished three lengths ahead of a below-par Double Trigger at Longchamp last September. His overall form does not look good against the French rider would probably prefer softer ground. Firm going caused Magnificent Style (2.30) to miss

the Oaks, despite connections having stumped up the £15,000 supplementary fee. Henry Cecil, her trainer, was worried about Magnificent Style handling the downhill run at Epsom, but on this more conventional track the filly should be able to show her form in the Ribblesdale Stakes. She stayed on strongly to beat Sil Sita, subsequent winner of the French Oaks, in the Musidora Stakes at York and will be well suited by today's longer trip. Even though the starting stalls are in the centre of the track for the Cork And Ortery Stakes, a low draw is likely to be an advantage judging by the outcome of yesterday's Hunt Cup. Rambling Bear (4.20), drawn five, looks sure to give a good account of himself. Michael Blanshard's progressive sprinter had a length to spare in the 4lb handicap worse off here after weight for-age adjustments at Lingfield, and his previous Newbury win over Araf (now 2lb worse) has been boosted by the runner-up.

The King George V Handicap presents punters with a variety of options, but the key to it could be Michael Stone's decision to equip Get Away With It (5.30) in a visor for the first time. This colt is a full brother to the stable's former high class middle distance performer, Ezzoun, who won first time out in blinkers and usually raced in a visor when putting up his best efforts. Get Away With It, following just three outings, is potentially a good deal better than his current handicap mark and with Willie Carson in the driving seat he looks an interesting proposition.



Stepping out... Dance Parade answers the calls of a determined Mick Kinane to win the Queen Mary Stakes

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS

Peslier has second sight on Shake The Yoke

The difference between super-confidence and over-confidence at Royal Ascot yesterday was a matter of distance by which Olivier Peslier won the Coronation Stakes on Shake The Yoke from Last Second. From two furlongs out Peslier rode the French even-money favourite to beat Dance Design on the rails and it was clear that he always thought his filly

would get there. He was right, but did he take account of George Duffield finishing like a train on Last Second on his outside? "The plan was to hold her back and it worked," said Peslier. "That is the way she is used to racing. I wasn't worried. I saw the second coming." Yeast was a popular winner of the Hunt Cup for William Haggas who, after his Derby triumph, is having a seasonal sabbatical. Kieren Fallon made virtually all the running on

Yeast, the 8-1 favourite, followed home by Tertium and Crumpton Hill. Haggas revealed that Epsom hero Shaamit is not guaranteed to go for the Irish Derby on Sunday week, mindful no doubt of the big supplementary entry fee. "I'll not be making a decision until the last possible moment," he said. Punters took an early pounce as 50-1 shot Locayan Prince, ridden by Richard Hughes, won the opening Jersey Stakes. "Richard gave Lucayan

Prince a beautiful ride," said David Loder, the colt's trainer. "You have to wait and wait with this horse. We know he was good but he hasn't produced it on the racecourse until now." Anyone who watched the market before the Queen Mary Stakes knew More Silver, who went from 5-1 to 5-2, would not win. Predictably, she never threatened to take a chance leaving her stable companions Dance Parade and Dame Laura, trained by Paul Cole, to fight out the finish

with victory going to the winner. Cole commented: "I've always wanted to win the Queen Mary though it's slightly tempered by the run of More Silver. I've been getting bad vibes about her in the past week. I would hate to be thought unprofessional in running a horse that wasn't right." Unfortunately, Cole did not choose to make public his reservations about More Silver and his apparent disregard for punters does him no favours.

Kinane leads jockeys' parade

MICK KINANE'S double on Dance Parade and Gordi at Royal Ascot yesterday gave him three winners at the meeting and put him in a commanding position in the League Club Jockeys' Championship, writes Chris Hawkins. Kinane is on course for a hat-trick, having been leading rider at the meeting in each of the last two years. Olivier Peslier is his closest pursuer with two winners. The success of Gordi in the Queen's Vase prompted Dermot Weld, his trainer, to talk in terms of the colt being an

other Vintage Crop. "He has wonderful shoulders and is very powerful — just like Vintage Crop," said Weld who plans to give him one more run before the Doncaster St Leger. Gordi runs in the Cigar curls in the Cigar colours of Allen Paulson, the American millionaire who has ten horses with Weld. The stewards considered the poor performance of the favourite Sherpas who finished tenth in the Queen's Vase and accepted Pat Eddery's explanation that the colt would not let himself down on the firm ground.

Royal Ascot card with form for televised races

2.30 Magnificent Style, 2.50 Topsy Croft, 3.45 Double Trigger, 4.20 Rambling Bear, 4.55 Belphegor, 5.30 GET AWAY WITH IT (new)

BBC-1

Table of race results for BBC-1, including race numbers, names, and winners.

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Stratford (N.H.) tonight

Table of race results for Stratford (N.H.) tonight, including race numbers, names, and winners.

7.15

Table of race results for 7.15, including race numbers, names, and winners.

BBC-1

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7.15

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Southwell (A.W.)

2.15 Mintonia (nb), 2.50 To Am, 3.25 Aphelion, 4.00 Kippenker, 4.35 Red The Chief, 5.10 Privately Affair

2.15

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.) 2.15, including race numbers, names, and winners.

2.50

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.) 2.50, including race numbers, names, and winners.

3.25

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.) 3.25, including race numbers, names, and winners.

4.00

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.) 4.00, including race numbers, names, and winners.

4.35

Table of race results for Southwell (A.W.) 4.35, including race numbers, names, and winners.

Ripon tonight

7.00 Powerful Reply, 7.30 Porphyrus, 8.00 Barry, 8.30 Desert Tiger, 9.00 Tarnham, 9.30 Flying Legend

7.00

Table of race results for Ripon tonight 7.00, including race numbers, names, and winners.

7.30

Table of race results for Ripon tonight 7.30, including race numbers, names, and winners.

8.00

Table of race results for Ripon tonight 8.00, including race numbers, names, and winners.

8.30

Table of race results for Ripon tonight 8.30, including race numbers, names, and winners.

9.00

Table of race results for Ripon tonight 9.00, including race numbers, names, and winners.

RACELINE logo and contact information for Royal Ascot, Southwell, and Stratford.

ROYAL ASCOT 4.20 Catch The Blues, Tumbledeared Ridge; 5.30 Get Away With It. SOUTHWELL: 2.15 Studio Thirty; 4.35 Onnonotogain, Primo Lad. STRATFORD: 6.45 Beat The Rap, Nadjati; 8.15 Yacht.



EURO 96

# Writing is on the wall for prosaic Sacchi

Richard Williams on the night a draw was a heart-breaking result for Italy

**T**HEY came to Old Trafford from Rovigo, Viterbo, from Sorrento and from Rome, bearing their banners and their enthusiasm. But now the anger of the Italian fans will be turned against Arrigo Sacchi, their coach, whose team drew a match last night but in the process suffered their bitterest defeat of recent years.

More bitter, by far, than their defeat in the World Cup final two years ago. To lose to Paolo Maldini, who wept as he left the Old Trafford pitch, may well be retaining the captain's armband under the aegis of his father, Cesare, the old Milan centre-back, who takes the young Italians to the Olympic Games next month. If that goes well, an invitation to step up to the seniors may not be long delayed.

Sacchi is said to have invented the "pressing" game during his time with Milan, with its total reliance on 4-4-2 and the offside trap. Yet he lacks the inspiration or even the mildly interesting ideas to be found in his tactics at national level has long made it legitimate to wonder whether the success of his Milan side was not due in part to the fertile minds and strong characters of his three great Dutchmen: Ruud Geullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard. What seemed like an episode of high-quality management may in fact have been simply the application of Dutch player-power in a foreign context.

Sacchi's fondness for Roberto Donadoni, who has already started collecting his pension in the form of a large salary from the New York-New Jersey MetroStars, is really an admission that he cannot find a creative force from the current generation. Donadoni's last great occasion was in Athens two years ago on the night Milan thrashed Barcelona. Last night he repaid the coach's faith with total commitment, but it was not enough.

There is nothing wrong with this team that the presence of Roberto Baggio would not put right, whatever his form with Milan last season. Baggio, not Sacchi, was the reason Italy reached the World Cup final in Pasadena. Past his best even then, he was not too proud to hustle until the job was done.

Alessandro Del Piero was supposed to be the answer to the effective retirement of Roberto Baggio from the national side. The 20-year-old's remarkable consistency in scoring goals with his right foot from the left-hand edge of the penalty area, slotting one after another unerringly into the top right-hand corner of the net, was a feature of the early weeks of last season, although it was not enough to give Juventus the impetus to defend their title.

Soon after he had been called into Sacchi's squad, another form of national service seemed to do for Del Piero. The army cut his hair and made him play in a demanding services tournament, while giving him Sundays off to perform in Serie A. The zest went out of his play, even as Juventus were mounting their successful European Cup campaign.

Sacchi has been severely criticised for not including more Juventus players in his selections since the squad arrived in England. Last night Italy included only one representative of the club — the goalkeeper, Angelo Peruzzi — in his starting line-up, although the winger Angelo Di Livio came on later.

Milan, on the other hand, were represented by Maldini, Costacurta and Albertini, and by three men who wore the red and black stripes in Sacchi's day: Donadoni, Fuser and Mussi. Terry Venables is not the only man who likes to show his appreciation of his former associates, but in Sacchi's case the problem seems to be that Messrs Geullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard are no longer available to him.

Like the present-day Dutch national side, Sacchi's Italy suffer from the lack of strong personality in midfield. In Holland's case the need is for a Rijkaard, to drive them on. Italy's requirement is for an Antognoni or a Rivera, to give them the fantasy they so grievously lack. Domenico Albertini, who at 34 already has three Italian league championships and one European Cup to his name, and the 26-year-old Roberto Di Matteo, who made his debut for Lazio three years ago as a substitute for Paul Gascoigne, are solid young players but their imaginations are prosaic. Neither of them has the creative instinct to invent the game, as we saw last night when Germany gave them acres of space in midfield.



Czech point... Russia's Dmitri Khokhlov is blocked by Pavel Nedved of the Czech Republic. PHOTOGRAPH BY NEAL SIMPSON

Group C: Russia 3, Czech Republic 3

# Czechs enjoy the late show

Ian Ross at Anfield

**T**HE Czech Republic's reward for their unexpected victory over Italy arrived last night when, in extraordinary circumstances, they went through to the quarter-finals where they face Portugal at Villa Park on Sunday.

Their draw against Russia proved sufficient given the Azzurri's failure to defeat Germany at Old Trafford. The Czechs finished level on points with Italy but advanced on the strength of their victory against Arrigo Sacchi's team at Anfield on Friday.

On an evening of fluctuating fortunes the Czechs carelessly surrendered a two-goal lead and were then facing elimination after the Russian substitute Vladimir Beschastnykh had put his side ahead with six minutes left.

But with two minutes left on the clock the substitute Vladimir Smicer drove in splendidly from 20 yards to drag the Czechs level and break hearts the length and breadth of Italy.

It was difficult to imagine that the Czechs could play better than they had in defeating Italy, it was almost impossible to believe Russia could perform any worse than they had against Germany.

After two undistinguished displays in Russia dropped Andrei Kanchelskis, much to the disappointment of those followers of Everton who had crossed Stanley Park to lend support to an adopted son.

Not that there were many neutrals present or indeed anyone else. It was a shame because in between the robust tackling there was some eminently watchable football.

Russia's neat interplay promised much, particularly in the opening few minutes when the Czech back line was pulled out of

shape with extraordinary ease. But the Czechs have learned how to ride luck and the precise muck and the precise blossom they drove a dagger through the heart of their opponents' ambition.

Cherchesov, Russia's goalkeeper, was still being congratulated on acrobatically turning behind Kukba's powerful drive when Ekoborsky drove across the resulting corner.

The Russian defence stood motionless as Jan Sychoparek stepped smartly forward to send a glancing header just inside the far post.

Digging themselves out of holes of their own making is not Russia's strong point and not even the prospect of another comprehensive defeat could instil in them anything which even hinted at self-discipline.

Nineteen minutes in and the Czechs' superiority was emphasised with a second goal, again of rich quality.

Nemec's hopeful punt forward had covered almost 30 yards when Pavel Kukba rose to meet it just inside the penalty area. He had Cheresov not galloped away from his line the danger would have been minimal, but predictably he did, and Kukba's header drifted up and over him.

And then, as quickly as they had stumbled, the Russians regained their balance and were level by the 33rd minute.

After the substitute Alex Mostovoi had headed in a Khokhlov cross three minutes into a second half of heavy legs and many errors, the defender Omar Tetradoz scrambled home from a close range and match confusion to make absolute nonsense of what had gone before.

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## Euro 96 results

| Group A | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| England | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 2 | 7   |
| Holland | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4   |
| Sweden  | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4   |
| Belgium | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0   |

| Group B | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| France  | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 6   |
| Spain   | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 5   |
| Germany | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4   |
| Italy   | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0   |

| Group C            | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Germany (D)        | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 9   |
| Czech Republic (D) | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 7   |
| Russia (D)         | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 4   |
| Italy (D)          | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0   |

| Group D      | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| Denmark (D)  | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 7   |
| Scotland (D) | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4   |
| Norway (D)   | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4   |
| Sweden (D)   | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 0   |

QUARTER-FINALS: June 18 Spain v England (D), Wembley; France v Holland (3-0), Vills P; Germany v Czech (3-0), Old Trafford; Denmark v Norway (1-0), Ullevaal; Sweden v Italy (1-0), Old Trafford.

FINAL: June 19 D. Wembley.

# Scotland's Brown thinking young

**S**cotland's coach Craig Brown swallowed his disappointment yesterday and began to plan for the qualifying series for the 1998 World Cup finals, a campaign that begins against Austria in Vienna in August.

Still depressed by the fate his team suffered on Tuesday, when they failed by a single goal to reach the last eight of the European Championship, Brown confirmed that his main concerns about his

squad were their average age and their failure to score goals — their single most damning weakness.

"Only two of the team who started against Switzerland were under 30," said Brown, "so that is a slight concern. And of course we have known for some time that we are short in the scoring department."

"We could do with a younger striker or two, as there is quite a gap between the established, senior men like Ally McCoist and the very young, under-21 players.

"Duncan Ferguson is there, of course, and he can give us another option when he is fully fit, but the changes to the squad cannot be sweeping, they have to be gradual. In the World Cup we will be allowed any three subs from seven on the bench. So as the pool expands in size it must also contain more depth."

There is short one and Brown conceded that he might have to take risks. "I may throw one or two of the younger strikers in. We'll see how they shape up."

The credit Brown took from

Euro 96 was endorsed by his assistant the Hibs manager Alex Miller. "Craig showed himself to be a match for any coach in the world," said Miller.

"In a section with Terry Venables, Artur Jorge and Gus Hiddink, Scotland were a tactical match for any of them. And nobody could have got more out of a group of players than Craig did. I've been watching Scotland games since 1960 and that is the best-organised series of performances I've seen in those 36 years."

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## Results

### Rugby Union

**YOUR MATCH** New South Wales 44, Canada 15.

**WELSH MASTERS** First-round leaders (10/18 unless stated): 86 L. Hackney, 87 M. Horton, 88 L. Broome, 89 C. Duffy, 90 J. Jones, 91 P. Hatcher, 92 J. Jones, 93 N. Fink, 94 M. Allwright, 95 W. L. Parsons, 96 Y. Jones, 97 M. Hatcher, 98 P. Hatcher, 99 P. Hatcher, 100 P. Hatcher.

**WELSH MASTERS** First-round leaders (10/18 unless stated): 86 L. Hackney, 87 M. Horton, 88 L. Broome, 89 C. Duffy, 90 J. Jones, 91 P. Hatcher, 92 J. Jones, 93 N. Fink, 94 M. Allwright, 95 W. L. Parsons, 96 Y. Jones, 97 M. Hatcher, 98 P. Hatcher, 99 P. Hatcher, 100 P. Hatcher.

### Baseball

**MAJOR LEAGUE** Chicago 6, Los Angeles 9 (1st); Chicago 10, Los Angeles 3 (2nd); San Francisco 9, Florida 1 (3rd); Atlanta 5, San Diego 4 (4th); Cincinnati 6 (10th); St. Louis 3, Philadelphia 2 (11th); Colorado 8, Montreal 12 (12th); Pittsburgh 9 (13th); New York Yankees 2, Minnesota 4 (14th); Toronto 6, Baltimore 0 (15th); Milwaukee 4, Kansas City 1 (16th); Boston 7, California 5 (17th); Chicago 4.

### Cycling

**TOUR OF SWITZERLAND** (Friedrichshafen stage) (1st-5th): 1. E. Barzin, 2. M. Suter, 3. A. Armstrong, 4. M. Suter, 5. M. Suter.

### Hockey

**DUTCH INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT** (Amstelveen) Germany 6, Poland 1; Netherlands 2, Great Britain 1.

### Fixtures

(7:30 unless stated)

**Rugby League** Alliance: Castleford v Leeds, Oldham v Halifax, St Helens v Wigan, Warrington v Hull, First Division: Doncaster v Batley, Leigh v Swinton, Wakefield v Featherstone, Huddersfield v Sheffield, Second Division: Chorley v Brierley.

### Sport in brief

**Soccer** Leicester City's manager Martin O'Neill hopes to begin the restructuring of his promoted side by signing the 30-year-old Millwall full-back Ben Thatcher for about £1.5 million, writes Ian Ross.

O'Neill has also joined the competition to sign Reading's out-of-contract Welsh international defender Adrian Williams, who also interests West Ham, Wolves and the Dutch side Feyenoord.

**Golf** Britain's Lisa Hackney stepped up her challenge for a Solheim Cup place with eight birdies in a six-under-par 66 in the opening round of the Evian Masters in France.

Hackney, the Welsh Open champion from Stoke, leads the field, one stroke ahead of Sweden's Maria Hjorth, with the defending champion Laura Davies on 72.

Unfair advantage

No, it's not fair — but somebody has to win two tickets to the Wimbledon Men's Final in this Sunday's Observer. Why shouldn't it be you?

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EURO 96

David Lacey says the firepower that overwhelmed Holland for the most famous win at Wembley since '66 could enable Terry Venables to emulate Sir Alf Ramsey

# Shearer puts England in shooting range

**S**UCCESS changes perspectives. After what happened at Wembley on Tuesday night the England team could turn up for Saturday's European Championship quarter-final against Spain on the back of a beer lorry and no one would raise an eyebrow.

Having routed Holland 4-1, Terry Venables's players could dismantle a 7-7 from nose to tail without arousing any comment other than a favourable comparison with the Marx Brothers' demolition of a train. Even now a certain night-club in Hong Kong may be preparing to engrave its dentist's chair with the following: "Gazza and Teddy supped here!"

In the space of 90 minutes Venables himself has leapt in public esteem. The club-owning, book-publishing litigant who looked after the national team when he could find the time has now become the most highly regarded England manager since Bobby Robson's brief apotheosis in 1990.

A victory against Spain and Venables will be bearing down on Sir Alf Ramsey's singular reputation as the only man to win anything with England in a major tournament. Robson



From beer mugs to big-game hunters... the tabloids go from one extreme to the other as they chart England's ups and downs. PHOTOMONTAGE: ROGER TOOTH

reached the World Cup semi-finals, the best anyone has achieved with an England team abroad. Venables may be about to emulate Ramsey at home, and in a markedly stronger field than the World Cup of 30 years ago.

Before Tuesday night England's progress in Euro 96 has invited no more than guarded praise. In the 1-1 draw with Switzerland and the 2-0 win over Scotland any qualities in Venables's team had been only glimpsed - the slick passing, the neat and accurate goal against the Swiss, and the 10 minutes or so against

the Scots when the passing started to gal around Steve McManaman and Jamie Redknapp.

On Tuesday, however, everything came together. It was like Eliza Doolittle suddenly discovering her aspirates. Holland were unsettled by consistently good passing and movement and blown apart by the finishing of Alan Shearer and Teddy Sheringham, who each scored twice. The Dutch actually achieved more attempts on goal but English gunnery won the most famous victory since the 1966 Wembley final.

Not since Robson's side scored four times against Yugoslavia in the opening 24 minutes of a European Championship qualifier in Belgrade in 1987 has an England team demolished opposition of any standing so completely as did Venables's attack at the start of Tuesday's second half.

There was an almost German ruthlessness about the three goals they put past Van der Sar in the space of 12 minutes, bringing England to the brink of elimination from the tournament until Patrick Kluivert popped one through David Seaman's legs to pre-

serve Dutch interest in Euro 96 a while longer.

One of the most surprising aspects of England's progress to the quarter-finals is the fact that in all three matches Venables has used the same 11 players plus substitutes. Win or lose, he was expected to make changes. He himself said as much.

In fact he has kept faith with a format which allows him to change players' roles without altering the personnel. The ease with which Southgate moves from a five-man midfield to a four-man defence typifies the versatility and intelli-

gence in the squad Venables has spent 2 1/2 years striving to achieve.

All the players appear comfortable in whatever task is allotted to them. It is clear now that much work has been done in evolving situations which bring Paul Ince late into an attacking movement. This led to Shearer's goal against Switzerland as well as the penalty, after Blind had brought down Ince, that enabled Shearer to give England the lead against Holland.

Ince will miss the Spain game, having received a second yellow card. Pre-

sumably David Platt, who replaced him midway through the second half, will stay in the side for the quarter-finals. That should be the only change. Spain will face a confident, settled England team now fully expected to reach the semi-finals.

For the next three days the messages from Bisham Abbey will be all about guarding against complacency. True, England have only managed to reach first base. But to the assertion that "we've won nothing yet" one can only point out that winning the nation's respect is no small achievement after the prologue of three weeks ago.

The English mood has seldom been more buoyant. While the Dutch camp tears itself apart and recalcitrant Russians are sent home, Venables's players have developed an even stronger cadre spirit. England footballers may sometimes fall out. They seldom fall out. After Tuesday there is, needless to say, enough egg on critical faces to go into the omelette business full-time. Yet whatever the doubts about England might have been beforehand, everything was likely to change once Shearer found his range. So it has proved.

## Sofia, so bad



**S**O FAREWELL then, Bulgaria. This column's favourite team went out of the competition the way they came in, in a ferment of mutual contumely. Come back soon, you hear.

The bitching Bulgars were evicted before they could settle and never came close to the heights they reached in the United States two years ago. Hristo Stoichkov blamed the refereeing and the French team's ancestry. Everyone else blamed the Penevs.

Dimitar Penev's attempt to reunite the CSKA Sofia forward line of a few seasons back blew up in his face. Stoichkov looked ready enough, but Emil Kostadinov picked up an injury early in the second game and Lubo Penev, the coach's nephew who scored the own-goal in the France game, looked overweight and off the pace after his long bout with testicular cancer.

Not that this earned him much sympathy back home. "Penev & Penev Ltd knock Bulgaria out," claimed yesterday's Seven Days. "It's not clear which team Lubo was playing for - Bulgaria or the opposition."

Stoichkov refused to talk to the Seven Days reporter after the sports daily this week compared Bulgarian defending to corrupt baking practices. Their next encounter should turn the heat up further.

When the Bulgarians were trekking around northern England last week seeking the perfect training facilities, Borislav Mikhajlov and Bencho Ganchev must have proved especially helpful for their experience of English conditions. "The shops look okay, lads," you can imagine them telling their team-mates, "but the swimming pool is over-chlorinated." And off they would head again.

Trifon "the eyes, the eyes" Ivanov might also have been able to offer some advice after his brief spell at Coventry City three months ago, during which he earned a reputation for racking up even wilder personal grooming.

The central defender, who looks like he walked from Sofia to St James' Park and then had his tent stolen, played three games for Coventry's reserves. He was sent off in one and was almost sent off in another. His trial period was not extended.

Brian "Harry" Roberts, the Coventry coach and Birmingham Sports Argus columnist, was detailed to drive him to the airport. "He didn't speak a word of English," Roberts recalls, "but he still managed to let it be known he wanted his phone bill paid."

Coventry operates a dress code on match days but had little effect on the Trifon vulture. "We said smart casual," Roberts says. "He was half there. He got the casual bit right."

## Terry and the boys give the press some stick

(continued from Page 26)

but the second Test against India begins today and, if England win, the the parallel-universe theory will look even more plausible. It would be churlish, meanwhile, not to allow the players their moment to gloat.

"I can't believe how you guys run your team," Terry Sheringham scolded reporters yesterday. "Look at the quality in our side and it's just unbelievable. The sooner you guys realise that and back us, the better we'll do. Look at the players we've got, especially going forward. If anyone else had Anderson, McManaman and Shearer you'd say they were a team that had to be watched, but you just write us off."

Stuart Pearce took up the theme. "It's just not the case that the rest of Europe was laughing at English football. That is something that is generated here [in the press seats]. Yesterday we were not capable of playing top-class international football but this afternoon we suddenly are. That's just ridiculous."

"This team has not lost many games ever. I've played 65 internationals and lost six times. If I had done that at club level I would have two titles by now."

Nothing footballers say, of course, can be trusted. They are all deaf to press criticism, unless it provides a convenient excuse for defeat. Some claim that they do not read newspapers at all. Yet if press comment has such power to affect results, shouldn't the press be invited up to share the winners' medals on Sunday week if England become European champions?

For now, though, everyone loves one another. England may be only as good as their last game, but that was very good indeed.

## Group D: Croatia 0, Portugal 3 Croatia keep powder dry

**Martin Thorpe at the City Ground**

**T**HEY say that football is a funny old game. Terry Sheringham is really strange in Croatia. They came into this game as group leaders, were already guaranteed qualification, but their coach Miroslav Blazevic dropped seven players from the team who beat Denmark at the weekend, so not surprisingly they lost and finished second in the table.

Now why would he want to do that when he knew second place almost certainly would bring with it a quarter-final against Germany?

Worse still, if Croatia should beat Germany they would then face the possibility of an even tougher game in the semi-final, England at Wembley.

Here is the logic. "I think the German kind of game is preferable for us," argued Blazevic. Perhaps there has been a shortage of sunshades at Croatia's hotel.

Certainly Denmark would like to give him a tanning; their only chance of qualifying depended on Croatia beating Portugal.

The one consolation is that the world will have another chance to see the skills of Portugal's who needed at least a draw from this game to make the quarter-finals.

Blazevic tried to defend his changes. Jerkan had a broken nose and Stamic an injured ankle, he said, and the others left out were on yellow cards though in fact Suker and Stamic were not.

Unfortunately there seems to be no competition rule that

compels coaches to play their strongest side, even if the result of the game affects the chances of another team. So without the stars of Sunday, Boban, Asanovic and Suker, along with Stamic and Ladic, Croatia played as if they were involved in nothing more serious than a training ground run-out.

It took them only three minutes to concede a goal, Secretario's cross from the right finding an unmarked Figo who shot home. Thirty minutes of Croatian domination but one chance later, Portugal went 2-0 up. Sa Pinto's overhead kick tied up Joao Pinto, again unmarked, six yards out.

Croatia continued to assert more authority lest they be mistaken for a team who were not really trying. Jurcevic forced another save from Victor Bala, an at-half-time on came Boban, Suker and Asanovic. The Croatians appeared to mean business now and Asanovic forced a great one-handed save from Bala to prove it.

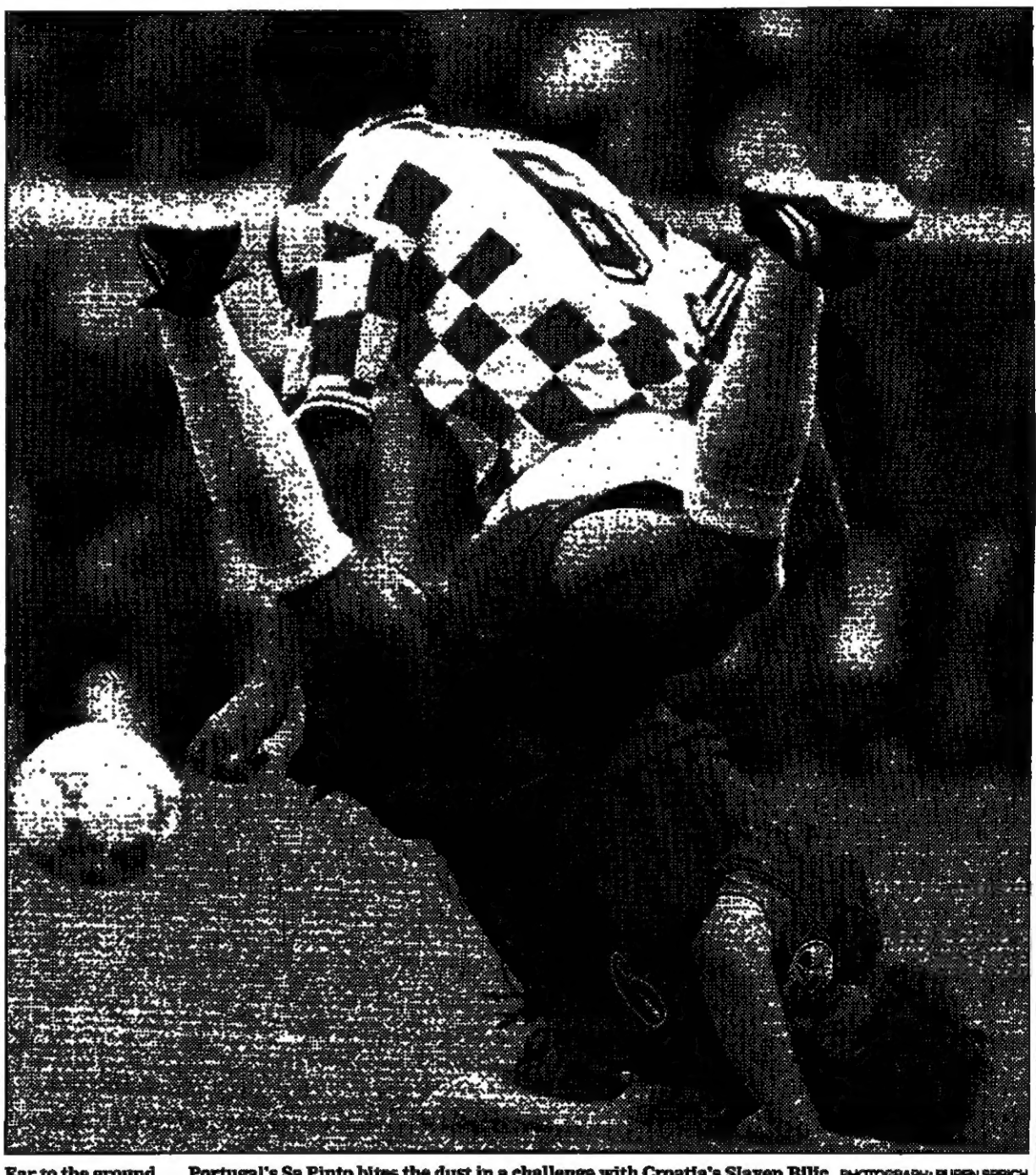
But then Portugal scored a third. And when a fierce defender Pavlic attempted a hoofed clearance which hit the back of his team-mate Bilic, rebounding into the path of Portugal's Domingos who, free on goal, slotted the ball wide of Mirmic.

Shortly after that Asanovic found himself clear on goal six yards out but shot wide. It could happen to anybody.

**CROATIA:** Mirmic, Simic, Batic, Pavlic, Susic, Juran, Jurcevic, Mladenovic (Boban, 4-3), Prosenec (Asanovic, 4-1), Susic (Suker, 4-0), Stamic.

**PORTUGAL:** Bala, Secretario, Couto, Heide, Dinis, Goncalves (Ferreira, 2-1), Rui Costa (Borras, 0-1), Joao Pinto (Sa Pinto Domingos, 1-1), Figo.

Referee: B. Hoyman (Germany).



Ear to the ground... Portugal's Sa Pinto bites the dust in a challenge with Croatia's Slaven Bilic. PHOTOGRAPH: RUBEN SPRICH

## Group D: Turkey 0, Denmark 3

### Holders go out with pride intact and a three-goal salvo

**Michael Walker at Hillsborough**

**T**HE Roligans of Denmark, perhaps sensing the inevitable, sang one long, lusty chorus of We Are The Champions shortly before kick-off and they were right to do so, for by the end of the game their heroes had lost their grip on the European trophy.

An unexpectedly triumphant era for Danish football thus came to an end, and their coach Richard Moller Nielsen now goes off to manage Finland. It may also be the end of Michael Laudrup's international career, and if so he made a surprisingly low-key exit yesterday despite the best efforts of his younger brother Brian.

The Danes went out of Euro 96 with a three-goal flourish here, but their fate was not in

their own hands but down in Nottingham, where it was sealed by Portugal's 3-0 victory over Croatia which made the Danish goal-count immaterial. Had Croatia won, even by a single goal, Denmark would now be in the quarter-finals instead of the Portuguese, but it was not to be.

It was left to the magnificent Roligans to maintain a sense of occasion after the news from Nottingham filtered through. The Danish supporters still managed to enliven an atmosphere that had been a bit Sheffield Wednesday v Coventry, with football in the first half of a comparable standard.

For poverty of entertainment in this tournament the opening 45 minutes of this game were rivalled only by the first half of the England-Scotland match. It took the Turks 20 minutes to get a shot

on target, the Danes half an hour, from the leggy Schonberg. Schmeichel acrobatically tipped over the former effort and Rustu bravely blocked the latter.

After the interval the title-holders picked themselves up and deservedly went ahead in the 49th minute. The Rangers forward Erik Bo Andersen got a flick to a long Schmeichel clearance. Rustu tried in vain to intercept and the ball fell to Andersen's fellow blue-nose Brian Laudrup, who ran around the stranded Rustu and side-footed home.

Rieper of West Ham almost made it two but Rustu made a point-blank serve from him and Rieper blasted a second effort carelessly into the side netting.

Rustu, arguably Turkey's player of the tournament, had no chance when Allan Nielsen cleverly chipped Den-

mark's second goal from a Michael Laudrup pass. The Turkey keeper was similarly blameless when Brian Laudrup got his second and Denmark's third six minutes from time from the same angle. Again Bo Andersen was the supplier.

The Turks had lost all shape long before then. The much talked-about Hakan had been replaced at half-time but it was in midfield that they displayed a severe narrowness of vision. Abdullah revealed a comparable attitude when he said: "At least we have justified our place here. We were not like Greece in the last World Cup."

**TURKEY:** Rieper (Bulent, 0-1), Aksoy, Oguz, Yucel, Abdullah, Teylan, Hakan, Uzun, Orhan (Hakan, 0-2), Hakan (4-1).

**DENMARK:** Schmeichel, Hogg, Helveg, Rieper, Schonberg (H. Larsen, 1-1), Thomassen, A. Nielsen, M. Laudrup, B. Nielsen, E. Andersen (E. Andersen, 0-3).

Referee: H. Nevill (France).

**I**AN ST JOHN got a little peeved when Spain started belting balls up to two big men in the French game. How dare a Latin side play like that, he seemed to be saying, just as though he held intellectual property rights on Route One.

It should no longer be a surprise to see Spain playing like a relegation-threatened English team. Their coach, Javier Clemente, is a big fan of the English game and a big fan, in fact, that he once turned Espanol into the ugliest up-and-under team in Europe, uglier even than Lincoln City. For a brief and unproductive time, indeed, he had them lugging balls in the general direction of a less-than-energetic 35-year-old, Pichi Alonso, and the towering Inchie Heath.

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## ITV puts opposition in shade with armchair audience of 16 million

**Andrew Cull**

**E**NGLAND's victory against Holland attracted the largest television audience for Euro 96 so far. ITV's coverage of the 4-1 Wembley triumph had a peak audience of 16 mil-

lion viewers, according to unofficial industry figures.

Coverage of Scotland's group match against Switzerland at Villa Park, which was screened on ITV north of the border, attracted a peak of 1.6 million viewers.

ITV's football coverage

gained a peak 71 per cent share of the available Tuesday-night television audience. It wiped out half of Eastenders' normal audience, knocking the BBC1 soap down to 7.8 million. The Nine O'Clock News slumped to 3.8 million.

The BBC expects to strike back on Saturday with Grandstand's exclusive live coverage of England v Spain at Wembley. ITV will cover the evening game between France and Holland.

If England beat Spain both BBC1 and ITV will show the semi-final.

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# Sports Guardian

## EURO 96

Group C: Italy 0, Germany 0

# Italy's ray of hope blanked out

### Germans and Czechs go through in thrilling finish

David Lacey at Old Trafford

**I**TALY, thinking they needed to win at Old Trafford last night to stay in the European Championship, beat their hearts out against an obdurate German defence after Gianfranco Zola had missed an early penalty. Thomas Strunz was sent off then for a short while it seemed as though Russia had come to their rescue, before the Italians had to begin their awkward journey home.

As exercises in brinkmanship go, Italy went into last night's match with their luck already pushed beyond the normal limits. Having to beat Germany to reach the quarter-finals could hardly have figured in Arrigo Sacchi's plans.

The coach had restored Zola and Casiraghi to his attack but still faced the uncomfortable prospect of being made to pay for the last night's result, not to mention Apolloni's red card, which had accompanied the 3-1 defeat by the Czechs.

The early story of the match was one of Italian possession and German patience. Italy passed and probed; the Germans largely stayed put in their own half, blocking off the avenues of approach.

A shot from Fuser broke this mundane mould after six minutes. Fuser struck a dropping ball sweetly and precisely and Köpcke did well to deflect it past a post. On other nights, with other referees, that might have been the German goalkeeper's last contribution to the game. After eight minutes a rare slip by Sammer allowed Casiraghi a free run at goal and as he went past Köpcke the goalkeeper brought him down.

The penalty was inevitable but no card, yellow or red, was flourished by the Belgian referee. To complete Italy's sense of injustice Köpcke then easily saved Zola's weak kick.

The swift passing patterns of Albertini, Donadoni, Fuser and Zola continued to disrupt Germany's cover, but Italy had desperately needed a score at that point, especially with news coming through of Czech goals at Anfield.

It was a long time before anything significant was seen of the German attack. Little of consequence was coming through to Klinsmann and Bobic.



The long, the short and the ball... Paolo Maldini gets a fine head in to challenge the German striker Fredi Bobic

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Shots continued to pepper the German goal. The Germans half-heartedly tried to reduce the tempo but seldom strung together more than two passes without losing possession. A glimpse of what they were really about was seen shortly before the half-hour when Klinsmann pulled away from Maldini to meet Müller's free-kick with an excellent header just wide of the near post.

As the half ended Klinsmann delivered the ball squarely into the stride of the advancing Ziege only for Peruzzi to get there first. A minute or two earlier another breakthrough by Casiraghi had been thwarted by a desperate combination of Sammer and Helmer. Italy's European Championship, you felt, was fading inexorably.

Then again, maybe not. The second half began with Di Matteo and Casiraghi sending in Fuser from the right for an explosive shot that Köpcke's whitened knuckles again punched clear. Later Carboni had the goalkeeper stretching for a 35-yard drive that went just wide.

Häselser and Müller were starting to move forward with greater menace for Germany but still Peruzzi remained largely unemployed in Italy's goal. As Zola almost slipped through the converging Sammer and Strunz, and their supporters cheered the news of a Russian revival at Anfield, Italy still remained optimistic.

Strunz was not to stay around much longer. Having already been cautioned for fouling Donadoni at the start of the game, he was sent off a minute before the hour after once again catching the little Italian forward with a late tackle.

In this situation the advantage is largely theoretical. Now Germany left Klinsmann alone upfield. Italy still had to get past nine men and a goalkeeper.

## PMs elect for sporting chance



Vincent Hanna

**T**HE note was enticing: "Please meet me after the show, I'll be in the foyer." He wore a pink flower and looked cool.

even at 2am in Broadcasting House. But he was agitated. "Thank God I got hold of you, my job's on the line here."

I found that hard to believe. The thing about being a good spin doctor is that everybody's job is on the line — except yours. And Rufus is the best in the business. He has guided the career of a dozen

Sycosus, whispered in the ear of Margaret Thatcher and John Major, and held bits of the Royal Family together in times of stress.

On the same day I've seen him smiling and waving at a Jimmy Goldsmith rally, and later in urgent converse with Peter Mandelson. Rufus is a ubiquitous fellow. But he knows sod-all about football and these days that can be bad for business.

"The PM is well aggravated that he wasn't at Wembley last night," he said. "I've got to come up with a strategy FDS."

I could see John Major's point, he should have been there. Sending a message to Terry Venables 30 minutes after England's victory was all right, waving from the Royal Box would have been better.

Running on to the pitch and kissing Alan Shearer could have been worth half a million votes.

Mind you, such things can backfire. For years after their Seoul Olympic gold medal, hockey players dreaded playing for England for fear that Colin Moynihan, then Sports Minister, would turn up and hug them.

"Look on the bright side," I suggested. "Tony Blair wasn't there either. I know that," snapped Rufus. "He was at the German CBI telling them what a good conservative he is."

"Wait a mo," I said, "didn't I hear you say last week that Tony should walk tall in Europe...?" "Shut up!" he hissed. "A fellow has to hedge his bets. What I've got to know now is whether there is any connection between our football fortunes and political success."

The question constantly puzzles political scientists.

Politicians love to strut on sport's stage. They believe, sometimes in spite of themselves, that posing for the adoring masses or, better still, throwing in the ball will cause some of the glamour and bravery to rub off on them.

Helmut Kohl may be a football fan but that's not the only reason he turned up at Old Trafford last night.

"Have you ever noticed," Harold Wilson once said, "how England wins the world cup only under a Labour Government?" He was only half joking.

1966 is a case in point. Wilson easily won the General Election on March 31 after 17 months in office. He had a majority of 96. He still enjoyed a large Gallup Poll lead coming into the World Cup, but it had dissipated by the end. The victory made no difference at all. But then he was already in power.

"Okay then," said Rufus. "On the evidence of 1966, if I get JM to parade on Saturday it will do no harm."

"Ah, but you have to think about what happened in 1970," I said. Rufus twitched. "Is it bad?" "Well, it's just rumours..." "Spit it out, man, I've got to know."

The 1970 General Election was fixed for June 16 and England played West Germany in the quarter-final four days before it. Labour were on a high with a seven-point lead in the polls. Harold pulled out all the stops, even getting Gordon Banks an OBE. But Gordon mysteriously got food poisoning. Peter Bonetti played, he let in a soft goal, and England were out. And so was Harold Wilson; Edward Heath won.

"Just because we lost the World Cup?" asked Rufus. "Who can say?" I replied. "David Butler thinks it may have been the lousy trade figures. Anyway, what's your problem, Rufus?"

"I'll tell you what my problem is," he spat. "If JM goes on Saturday and England win, people will say he's exploiting the team's success. If we lose, they'll say he brought the team bad luck. If he stays away it will look unpatriotic."

"But shouldn't the Prime Minister be going to Florence on Saturday for the Summit?" Rufus grabbed my arm. "Bellantoni!" he cried. "I'll recommend that it will get off the hook until the semi-finals."

Then he paused. "Wait — perhaps I'd better not," he said. "But why?" I asked. "Because he might not get a result there either."

## The day Terry and the boys gave the press some stick

John Duncan eats humble pie on the Bisham Abbey beat

**T**HIS was new territory for everyone. Like a reformed alcoholic waking up to a first sober morning, there was no headachefor Terry Venables to nurse, no world-beary eyes to squint through, no trial by tabloids to endure and, for the first time in ages, no excuses necessary to give.

The England coach was actually smiling as he mounted the press podium at Bisham Abbey. It felt strange to be there. "It's like Italia 90 now, when the whole place was buzzing," he said. "We badly need some success in this country and when we get a sniff we're in there."

"We wanted a bit of respect back, a bit of fear to be drawn against us, something that has not necessarily been there in the recent past. We've shown people what we are capable of, and that is good. But a good game is like a bad one in that you have to put it behind you as quickly as possible."

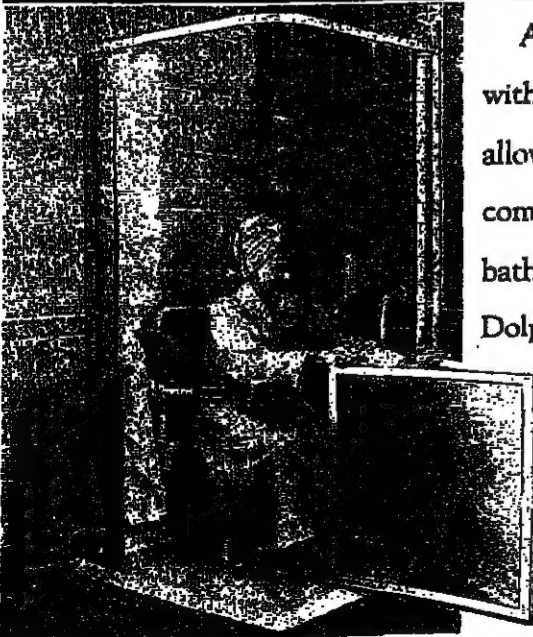
The press corps, whom only a week ago Venables had accused of being traitors, could not have been more supportive if they had been wearing mini-skirts and waving pom-poms.

There was no smirking at the back, none of the awkward silences that betoken media disbelief. No inquest. Explanations for the dramatic change in the England team's fortunes fall into two camps. The first is the parallel-universe theory, that a bizarre correlation of astral forces somehow threw the England team into a 10-year time warp. They were therefore not the poor relations of Europe nor the laughing stock of the Champions' League, and nothing was more natural than to see them thrash quality opposition at Wembley.

The second and more far-fetched explanation is that the England team were always this good but none of us could see it. What to the untutored eye had seemed like a series of numbingly uninspired friendly matches was in fact an obvious signpost to England's irresistible conquest of Euro 96.

It is a close-run thing (Turn to page 25)

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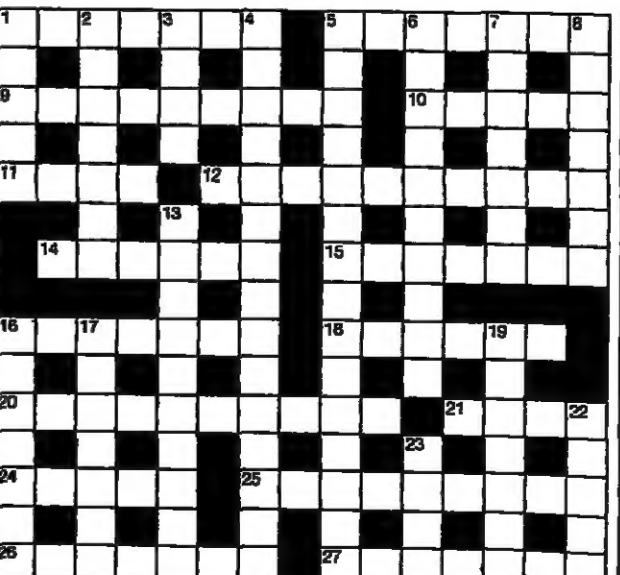
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What I'd set out to do was to read a novel on the Internet. Instead I'd found myself mired in a welter of information, puzzles, riddles. Mike Phillips

Online 62 page 10

## Guardian Crossword No 20,684

Set by Quantum



### Across

- 1 Man with role working in hospital no longer? (7)
- 5 Sack the postholder? (7)
- 9 The girl's weight right for one appearing on TV? (8)
- 10 The lady still briefly appearing at the Academy? (5)
- 11 Possesses hard drug (4)
- 12 English fund collapsed, finished. No form of profession? (10)
- 14 Short Italian viol played in resort in Roman times (8)
- 15 Infamous valley, for example, turning reddish-brown (7)
- 16 Eat herb (wild) to live? (7)
- 18 Growin' fruit (6)
- 20 Firm at the top in business (4-6)
- 21 It's large-scale in the picture world (4)
- 24 Ex-champion boxer with "big cut" excuse (5)

### Down

- 1 Disconcert a party (5)
- 2 Parts of joint chopped up is mince (7)
- 3 We in Europe showing commonsense (4)
- 4 A second examination re. prisoner's subsidiary allowance (15)
- 5 A growth industry? (8,9)
- 6 The president is not standing apparently (2,3,5)
- 7 Brother and Dean moved to produce a more liberal view (7)
- 8 Old man getting certain sum of money each year (7)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,684

- 13 Old carriage? It has scope for improvement (4,5)
- 14 Takes the top parts (7)
- 17 Nobleman? That's right (in a previous age) (7)
- 19 I am not an original stamp (7)
- 22 Entirely innocent (5)
- 23 One young man growing up to be an artist (4)

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